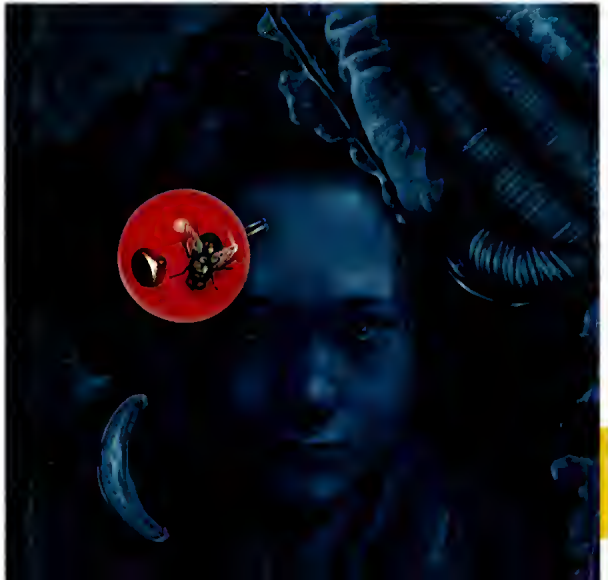
佐武と市捕物控 4

―水溜り―

石森章太郎

SHOGAKUKAN BUNKO



■極貧に生まれついた一人の娘。その澱んだ水溜りのような世界から抜け出そうと、嘘をつき、商家の娘になりすます。だが、その嘘ゆえに、娘は、次々と人を殺しつづけなければならなかった。

■貧しさが、妬みが、狂気が人を殺す動機なのか。佐武はさまざまな形の事件を追う。

デザイン　玉井ヒロテル
カバー装画　角田純男

佐武と市捕物控 4
石森章太郎

274
小学館文庫
330

■同じ著者による「小学館文庫」収録作品■

「佐武と市捕物控」
第1巻＝隅田川物語＝ ￥330
第2巻＝晩い夏＝ ￥330
第3巻＝芒＝ ￥330
第4巻＝水溜り＝（以下続刊） ￥330

「サイボーグ009」
第1巻＝009誕生編＝ ￥330
第2巻＝暗殺者編＝ ￥330
第3巻＝放浪編＝ ￥260
第4巻＝ベトナム編＝ ￥330
第5巻＝火山島〝マグマ〟編＝ ￥330
第6巻＝地下帝国〝ヨミ〟前編＝ ￥330
第7巻＝地下帝国〝ヨミ〟後編＝ ￥330
第8巻＝怪人島編＝（以下続刊） ￥290

「馬がゆく！」
第1巻＝起の巻＝ ￥330
第2巻＝承の巻＝ ￥290
第3巻＝転の巻＝ ￥330
第4巻＝結の巻＝（全4巻） ￥330

SHOGAKUKAN BUNKO

0170-280274-3068　330円

佐武と市捕物控 4

―水溜り―

石森章太郎

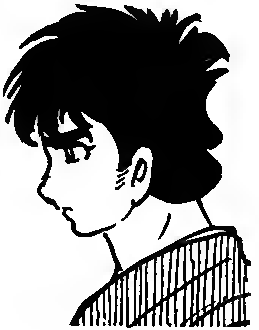
小学館文庫

佐武と市捕物控 4

石森章太郎

小学館文庫

Shogakukan Bunkos
Sabu and Ichi's
Detective Stories
Volume 4
By Shotaro Ishinomori



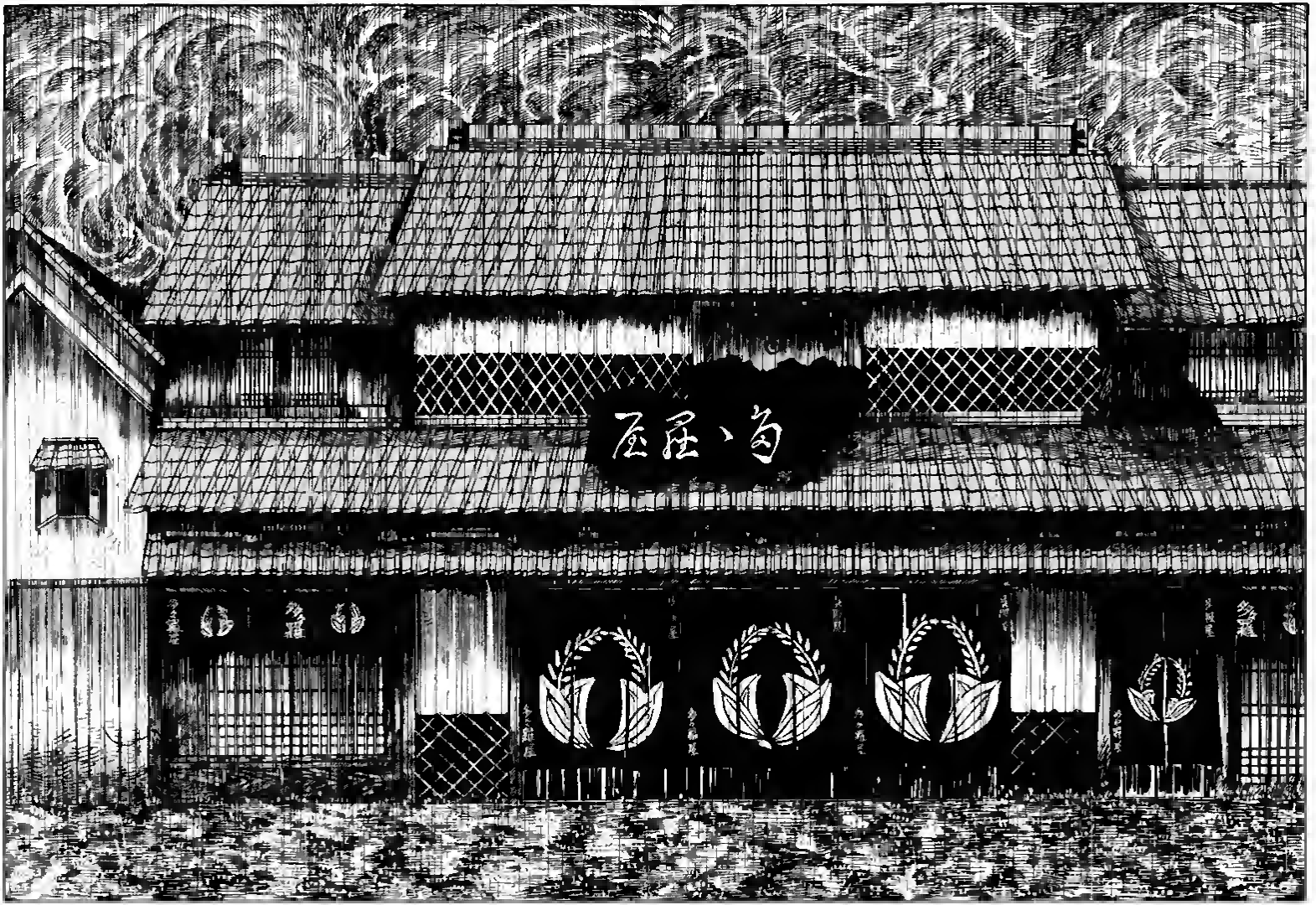
Published by
Shogakukan

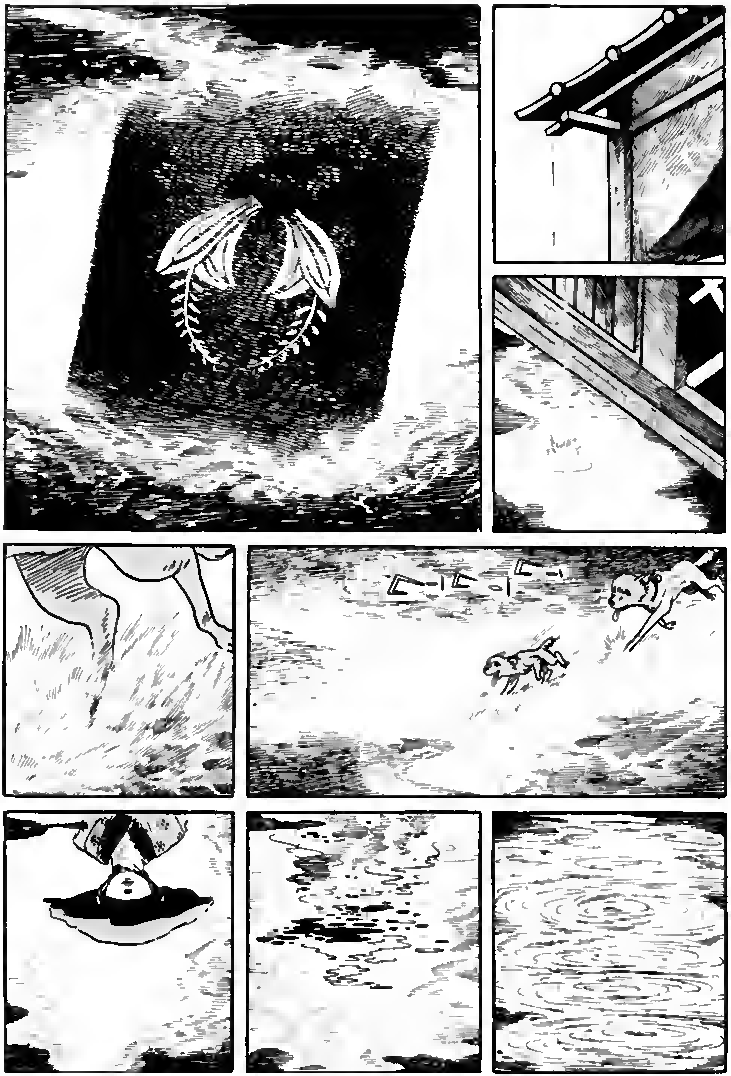
Sabu and Ichi's Detective Stories Volume 4 Contents

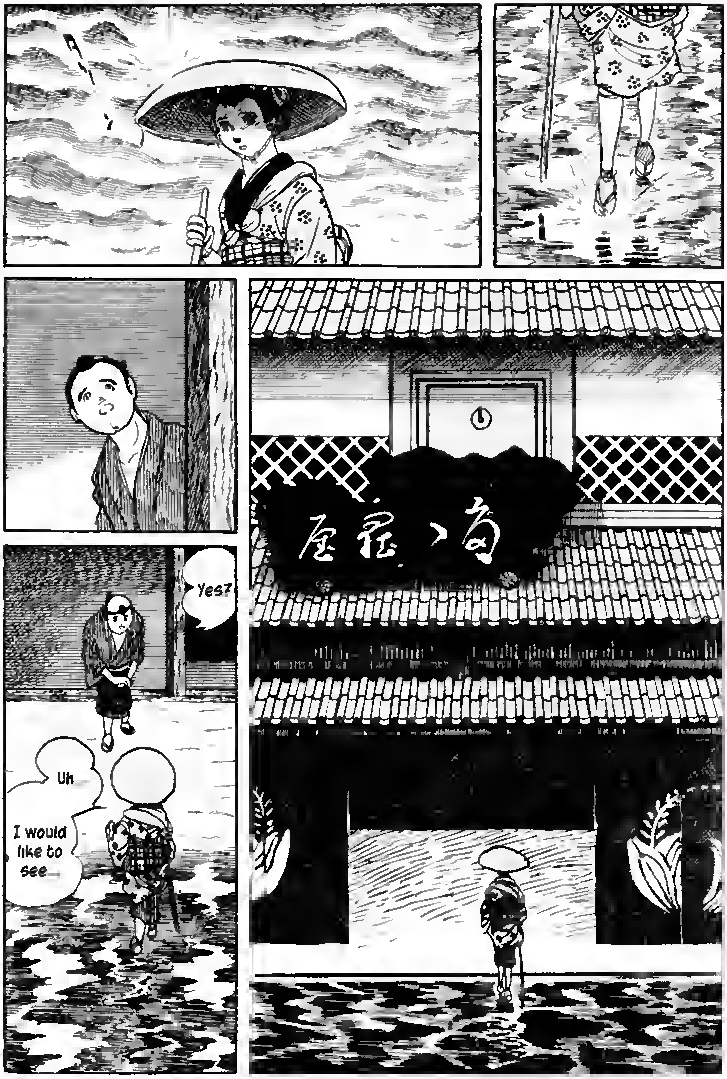
Chapter 16: Puddle
Chapter 17: Ghost Story of the Haunted Black Cat
Chapter 18: The Hot Wind
Chapter 19: Bathing
Chapter 20: Chirping Cicadas
Chapter 21: Ninja
Chapter 22: Caterpillar

Cover Illustration by Gen'ichi Takise

Chapter 16: Puddle

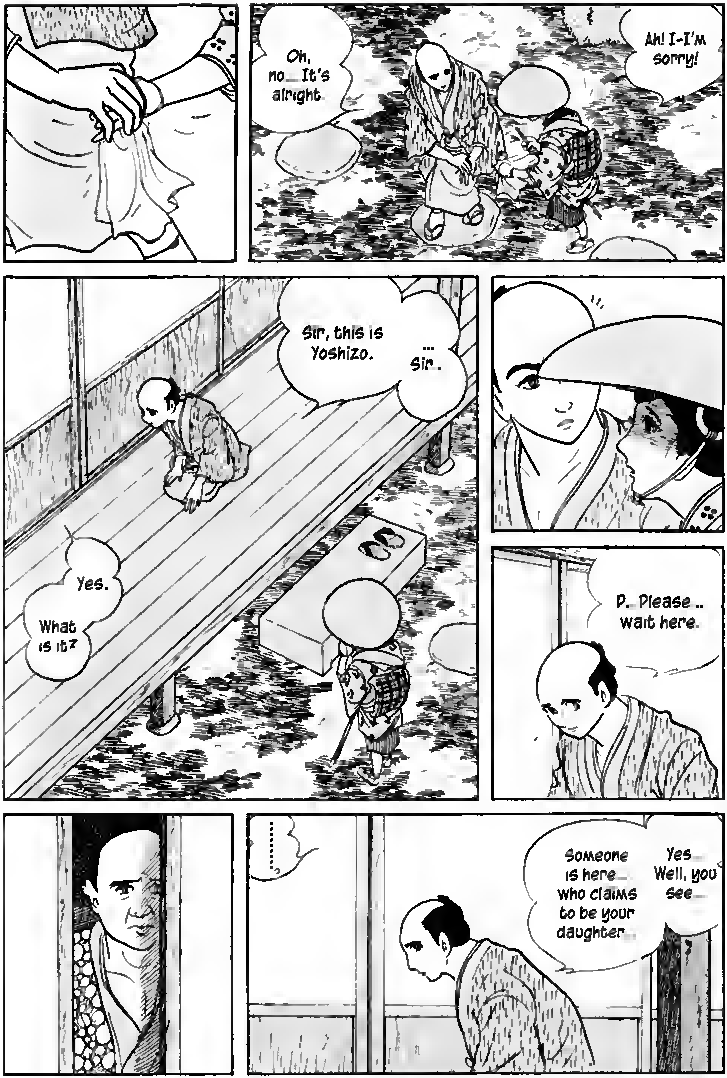





Yes?
Uh
I would like to see

W-Would you mind waiting momentarily?
Manager?
Fath...!?
I-I mean, I would like to see my father...
I-I would like to see the manager..
Huh?
I hear... you would like to see our managar..?
I am Yoshizo, the head clerk...
Y-Yes, actually my father is this store's...
?
Yes?
...Our manager is your father?
Yonakichi, go inside!!
Enough

Yes. He is my father.
Yes.
...Now...
Please, come on in.
W-Well, then... We can't talk in much detail outside the store.

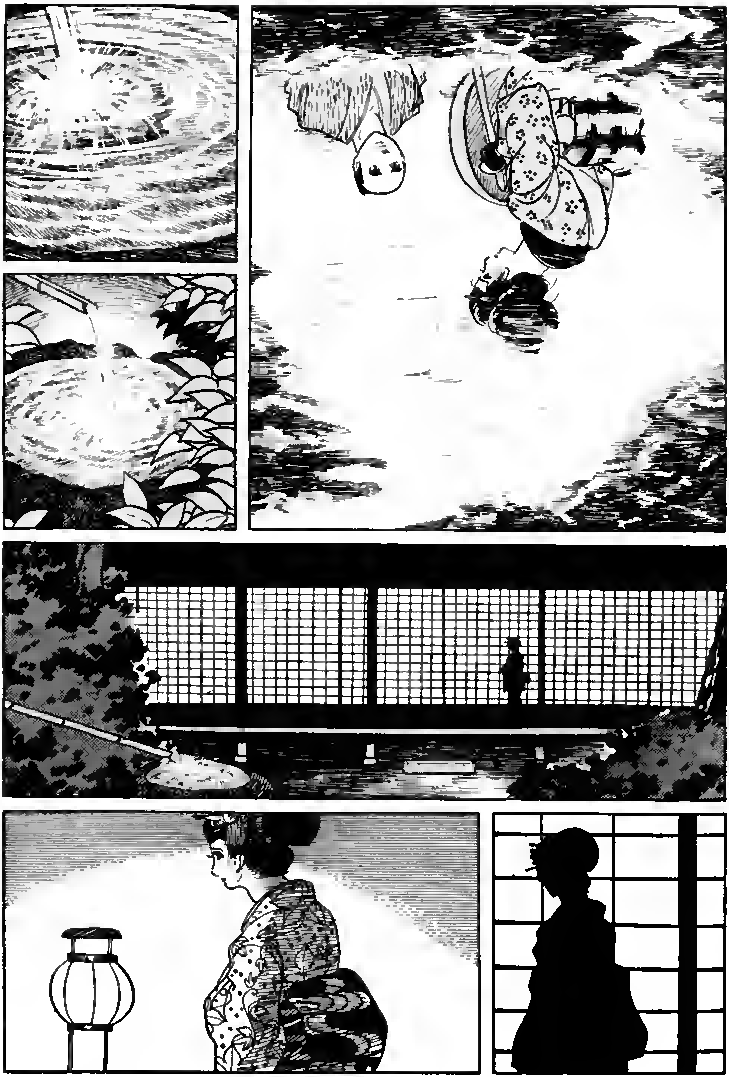

Ah! I-I'm sorry!
Oh, no... It's alright.
Sir, this is Yoshizo.
... Sir.
Yes.
What is it?
D.. Please .. wait here.
Yes... Well, you see...
Someone is here... who claims to be your daughter...

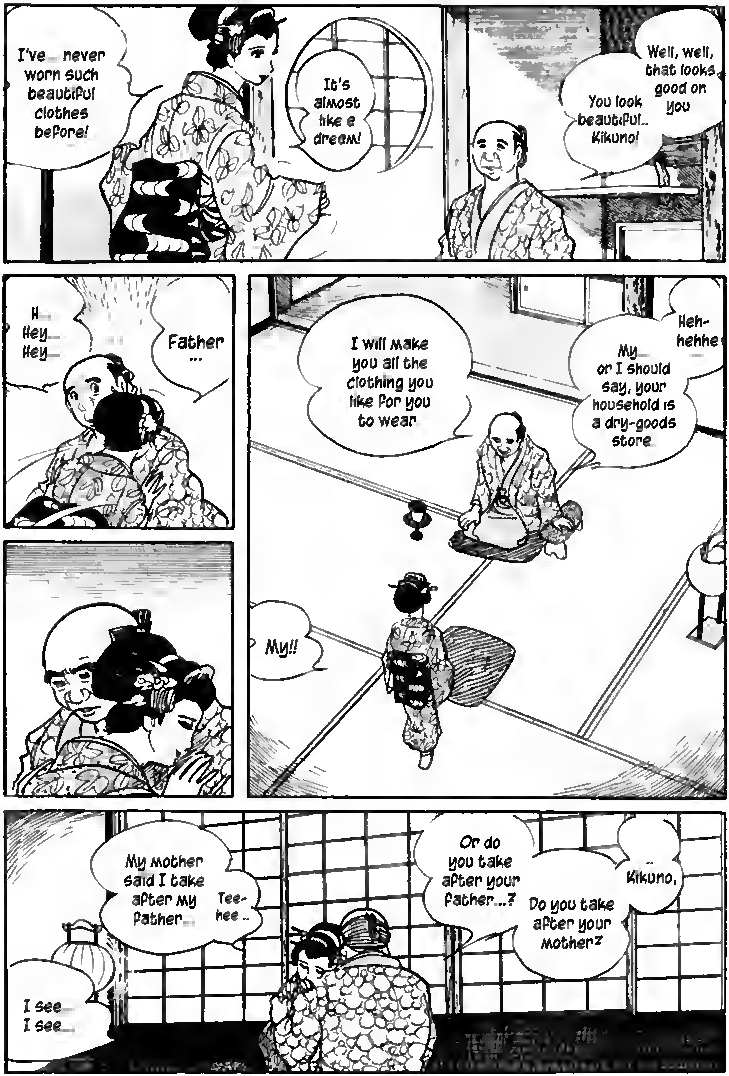
What?
I am Kikuno, daughter of Yae
Yes... That woman said she was your child...
T-Then you mean...
Daughter of... Y-Yae!?
My mother told me a little about my father right before she died ..
After that... My only living relative was gone...
Yae... is gone!?

..Yae was my wife who I tossed out nearly twenty years ago.
And after all those years, her daughter comes to me....
How am I even supposed to know if you are my daughter?
Father!!
I will take my leave now...
..You may stay, Yo-shizo.
Wait!!
My mother.. gave birth to me soon after she left here.
I am nineteen years old now
That's going too far!
"I was such a fool. I made you suffer so much..
would always hold me.. and say
My mother
"all because I betrayed your father"...!!
by Tosuke !?
Y-Yae was aban-doned..

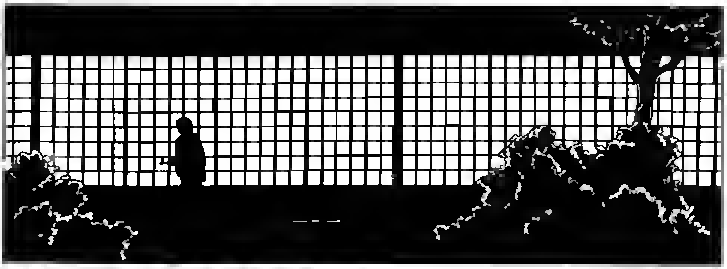
Hmpf!
That's why she left my house!
She went and got involved with that sales clerk Tosuke...
She was an utter fool!!
T-That's what I thought!
But this solitary life of mine has been easy an comfortable... It has hardly been sad at all!
and have lived alone to my age...
Ever since then... I have never trusted a woman...
And most recently, I have found a wonderful successor in Yoshizo!!
That's why..
intend to adopt my head clerk Yoshizo and have him succeed me!
I...
Yes, that's right...

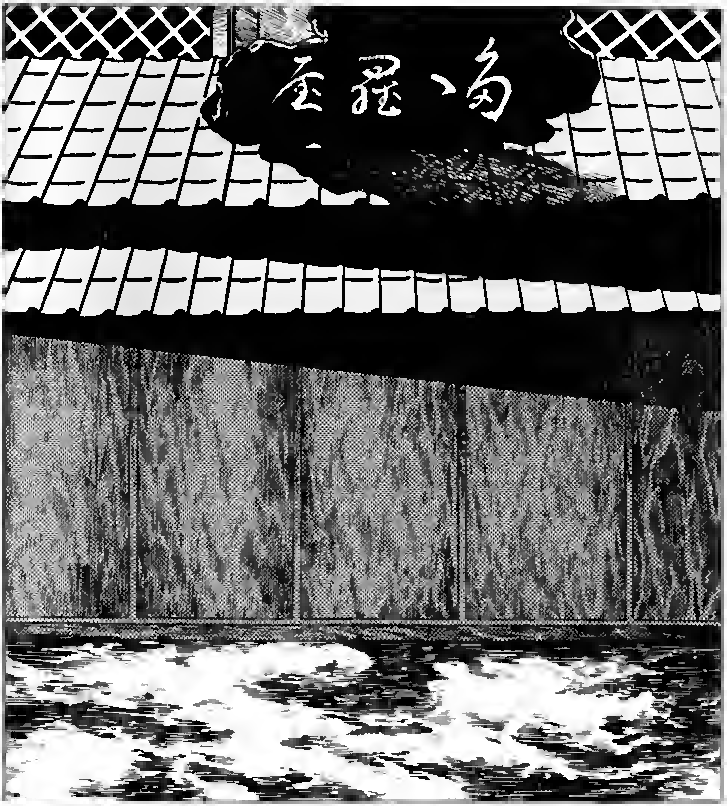
I believe you were much too harsh on her...
Sir...
Sob... W-Wait!!
Y-Yes.
...Yoshizo, have someone bring in a footbasin filled with water

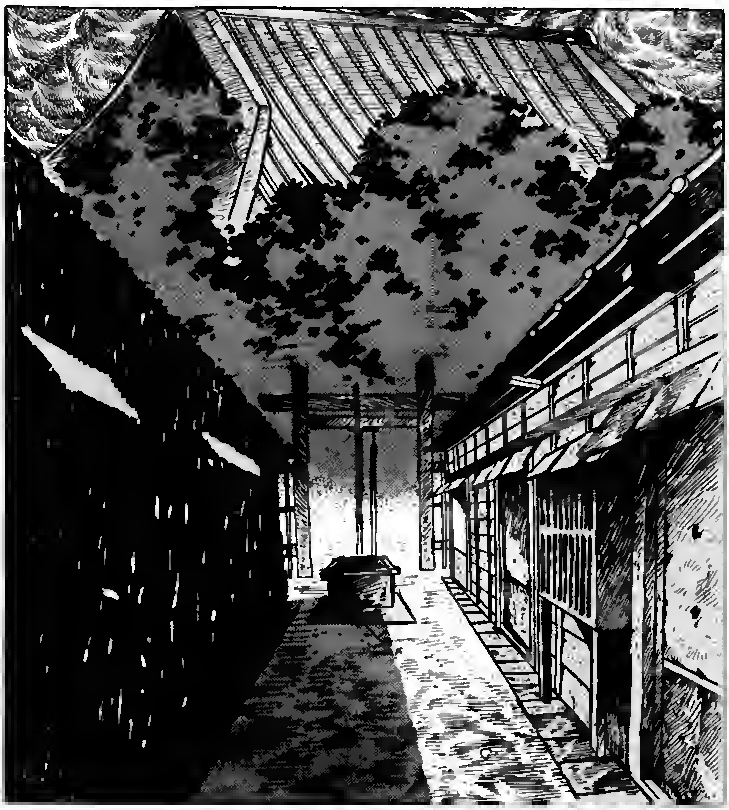



I've... never worn such beautiful clothes before!
It's almost like a dream!
Well, well, that looks good on you
You look beautiful... Kikuno!
H... Hey... Hey...
Father...
I will make you all the clothing you like for you to wear
Heh-hehhe
My... or I should say, your household is a dry-goods store
My!!
My mother said I take after my father... Tee-hee..
Or do you take after your father...?
...Kikuno,
Do you take after your mother?
I see... I see...

Ah...
Y-
You're...
.. Thank you for all that you've done earlier
Please, don't call me "My lady"
> Yoshizo!
I almost didn't recognize you!
My lady!

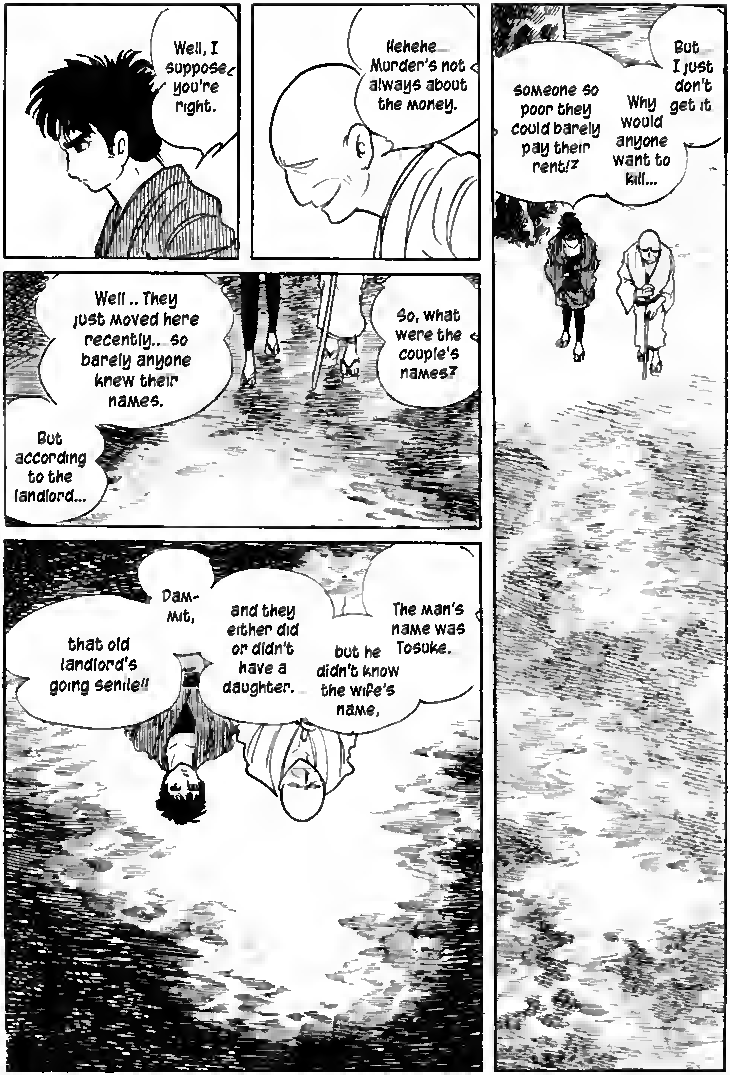


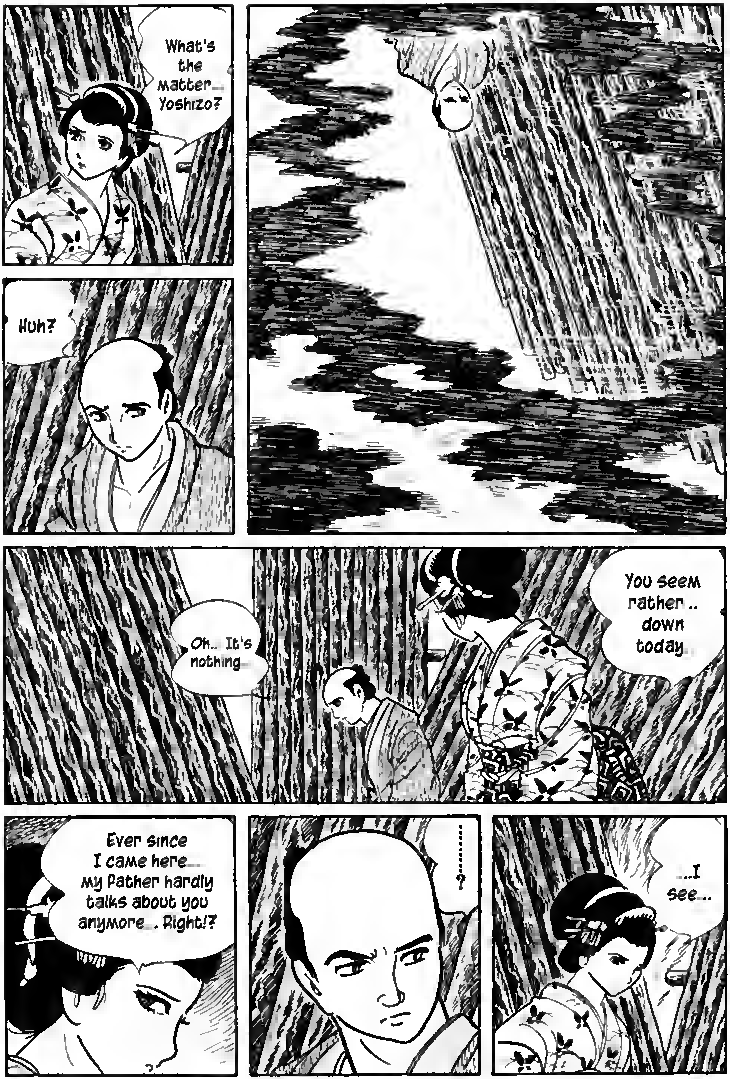

五郎八



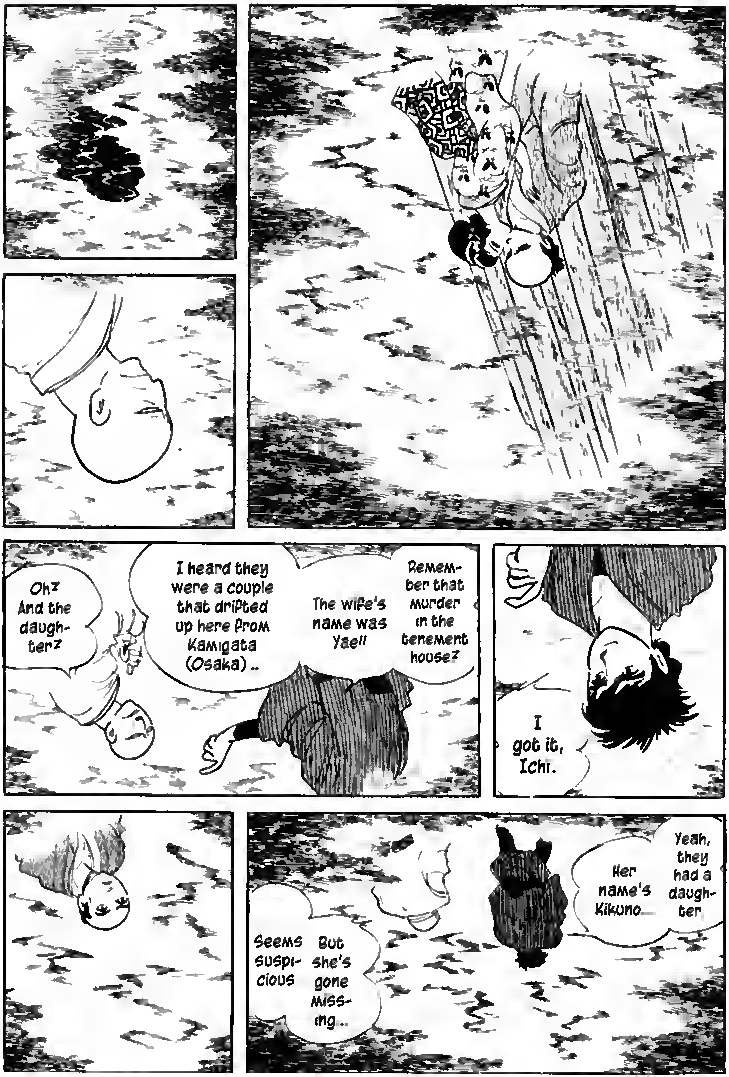
'Scuse Me
バシ
ヤッ
This... is awful!

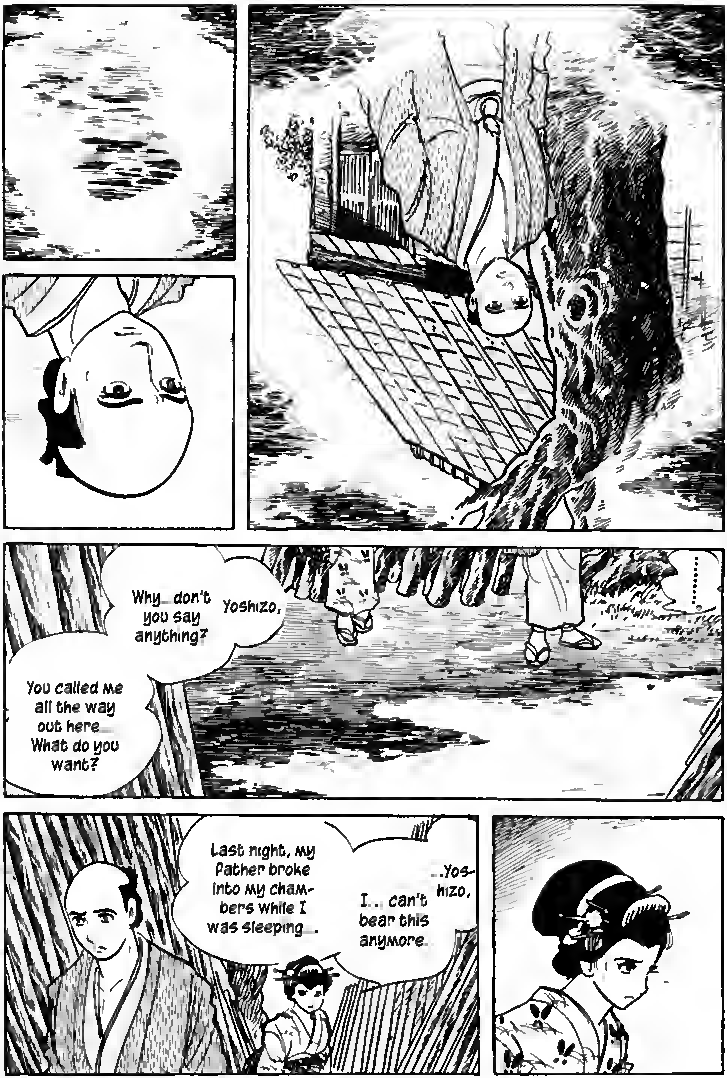
...Sabu?
This whole thing is just plain terrible...
How's it coming?
Yeah
Oh.
No one could survive this.
and how do I describe it... Something thin with a tapered edge had been pierced through their throats
First off, they drank poisoned wine...
The victims were a married couple in their forties


Well, I suppose you're right.
Hehehe... Murder's not always about the money.
But I just don't get it
Why would anyone want to kill...
someone so poor they could barely pay their rent!?
So, what were the couple's names?
Well.. They just moved here recently... so barely anyone knew their names.
But according to the landlord...
The man's name was Tosuke.
but he didn't know the wife's name,
and they either did or didn't have a daughter.
Dam-mit,
that old landlord's going senile!!


What's the matter... Yoshizo?
Huh?
You seem rather.. down today.
Oh... It's nothing.
Ever since I came here... my father hardly talks about you anymore... Right!?
?
...I see...

So that he could make his own store bigger
He's been thinking about having me matched up with a store owner's son
My father's pretty cold, isn't he?
Huh!?
Because yesterday
And .. Don't you think he's been living alone a little too long...?
.....
It's true, Yoshizo!
N-No, the manager would never...!!
...H-He slipped his hand into my braast
.....
I don't want to be married .. to any man but you!!
I... I don't...
I'm scared! I'm so scared!

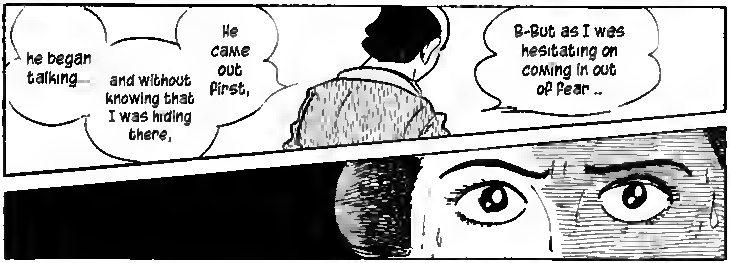

Oh? And the daughter?
I heard they were a couple that drifted up here from Kamigata (Osaka)..
The wife's name was Yae!!
Remember that murder in the tenement house?
I got it, Ichi.
Yeah, they had a daughter
Her name's Kikuno...
But she's gone missing...
Seems suspicious

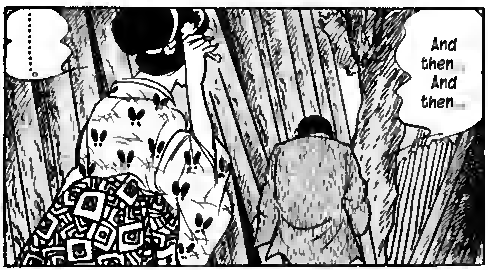

Yoshizo,
Why... don't you say anything?
You called me all the way out here... What do you want?
Last night, my father broke into my chambers while I was sleeping...
I... can't bear this anymore.
...Yoshizo.

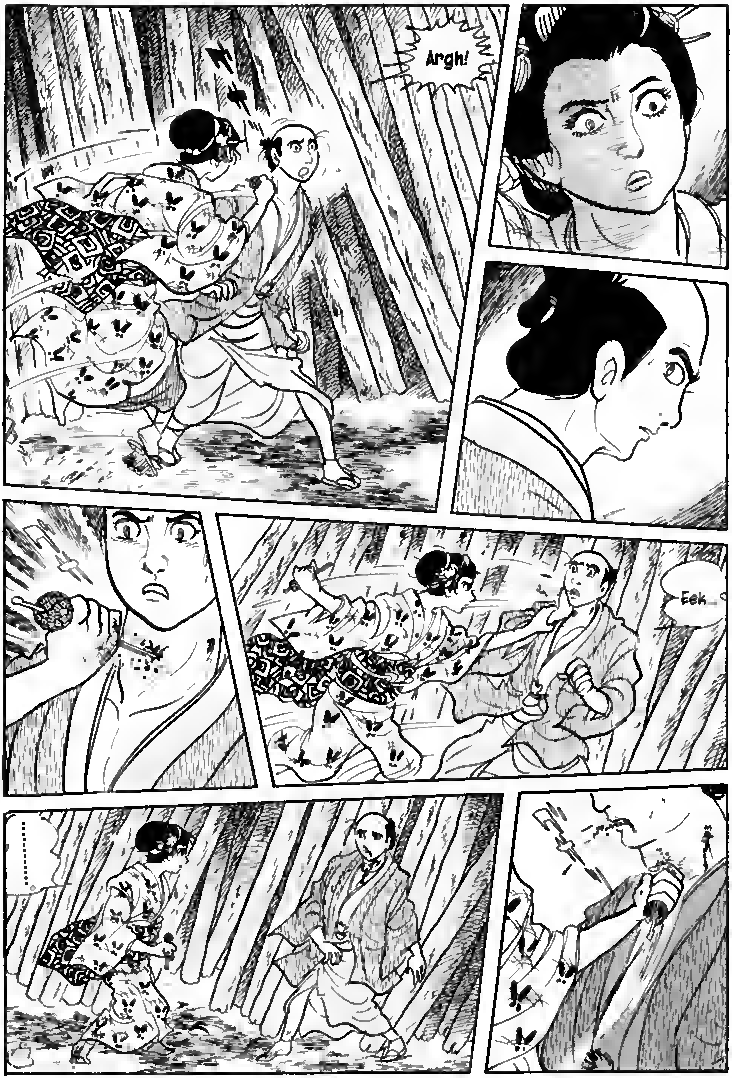
M-My lady!!
Are you mad... now that you know of this?
But I ran away like my life depended on it.. Yoshizo,
They're all lies!!
Everything you're telling me...
It's a lie!!
Huh!?
And I couldn't get it out of my mind...
W-When I was coming back from a patron's house... I heard a strange rumor..
A strange rumor?
A-And the man's name was... Tosuke!!
...T-There was a couple found dead in a certain tenement house...

No, the manager's wife ran off with!
That's the same name as the sales clerk your...
Y-Yes.
Tosuke is a common name.
B-But still...

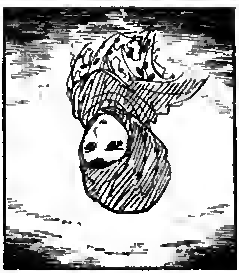
And today, I went to see a thief-taker I knew named Sabu.
That's why I decided to look deeper into it..
Y-Yes.


he began talking...
and without knowing that I was hiding there,
He came out first,
B-But as I was hesitating on coming in out of fear..


And then... And then...

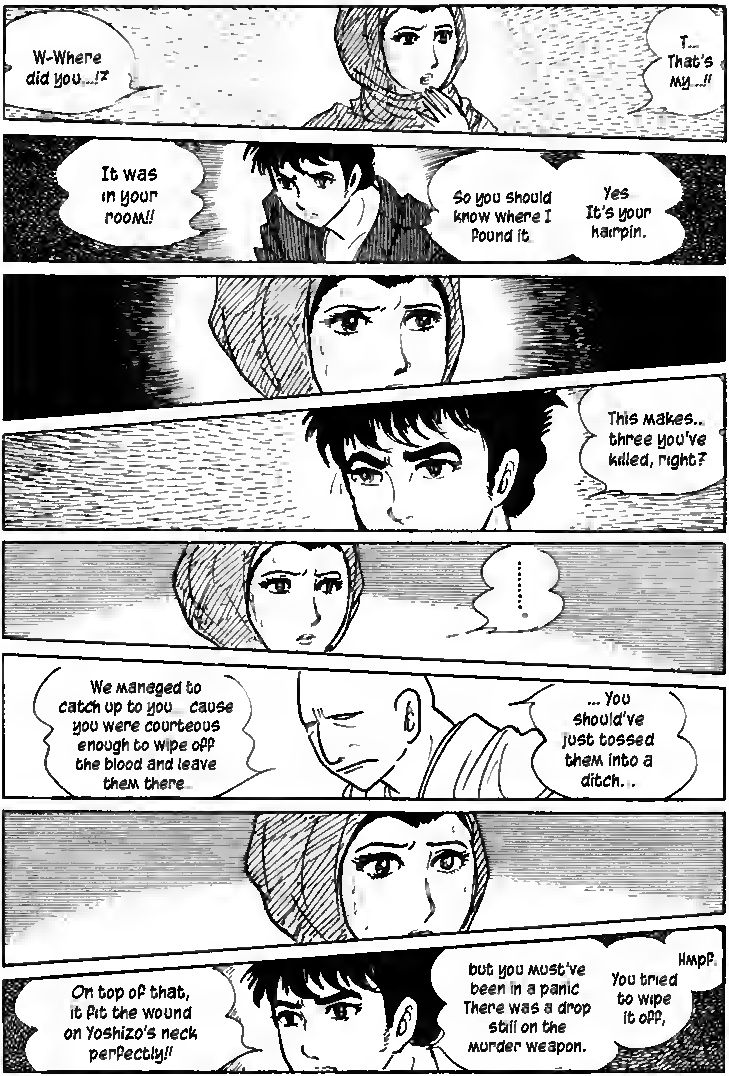

Argh!
Eek

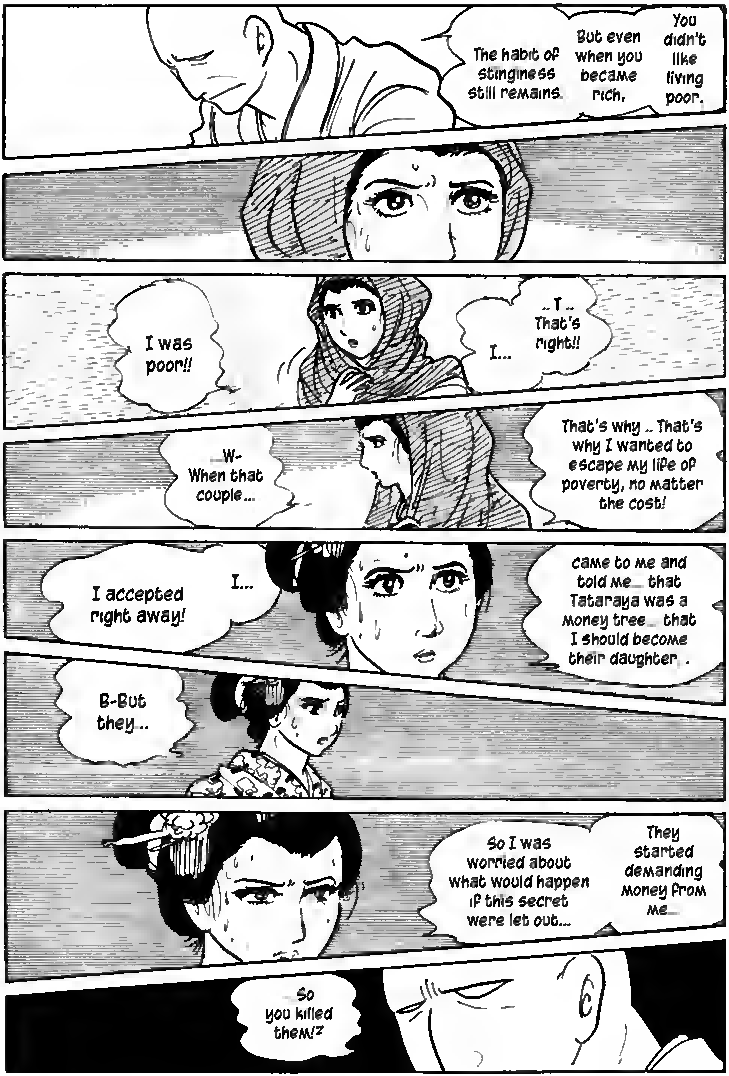
.....
I... still loved... you...
B... But even after a. all of that ..



This... should last you for two months
.. Mo-ther!!
I'm in a bit of danger right now..
I don't know if I shall return for a while

Then have you ever seen this before?
..You're Kikuno...of Tasaraya, I presume?
Huh!?
y... Yes?


W-Where did you...!?
T... That's my...!!
It was in your room!!
So you should know where I found it
Yes It's your hairpin.
This makes.. three you've killed, right?
.....
We managed to catch up to you... cause you were courteous enough to wipe off the blood and leave them there
... You should've just tossed them into a ditch..
Hmpf.
You tried to wipe it off,
but you must've been in a panic There was a drop still on the murder weapon.
On top of that, it fit the wound on Yoshizo's neck perfectly!!


You didn't like living poor.
But even when you became rich,
The habit of stinginess still remains.
..I.. That's right!!
I...
I was poor!!
That's why .. That's why I wanted to escape my life of poverty, no matter the cost!
..W- When that couple...
came to me and told me... that Tatarayа was a money tree... that I should become their daughter...
I...
I accepted right away!
B-But they...
They started demanding money from me...
So I was worried about what would happen if this secret were let out...
So you killed them!?

...And when Yoshizo caught on...
I wanted to escape from this puddle!
where the water never dries...
to escape from this place where the sun never shines...
I just
I...I just...
W-wanted
For that..
For that...
I would do anything...!!

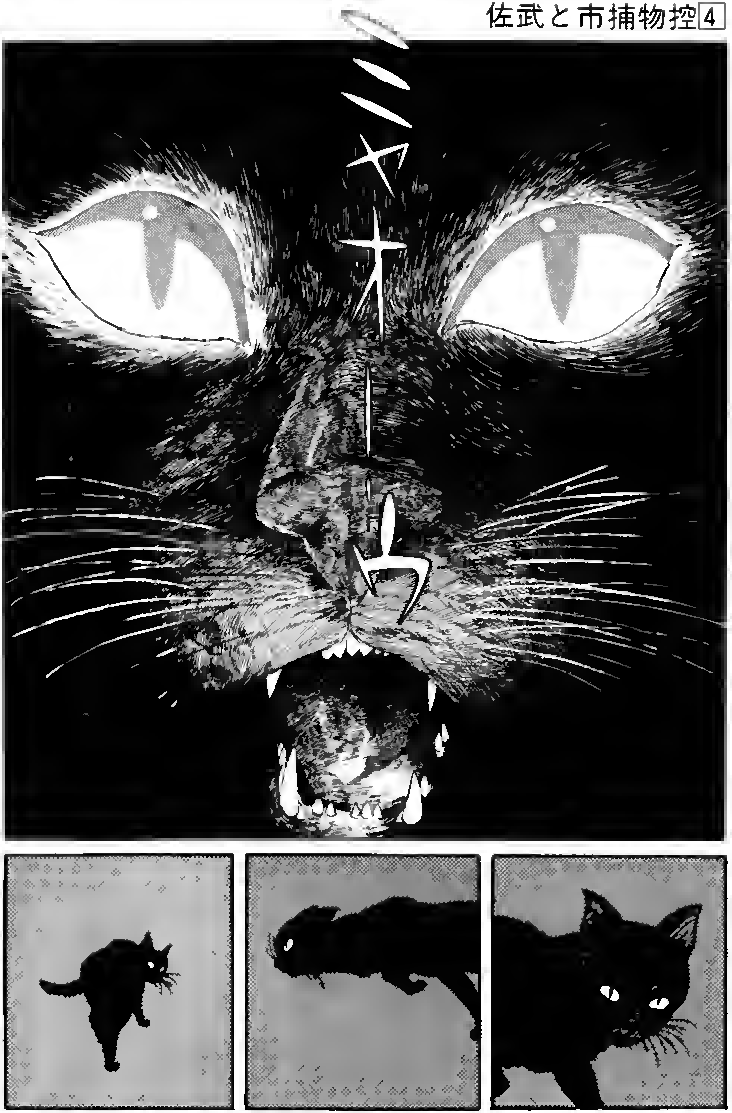
佐武と市捕物控

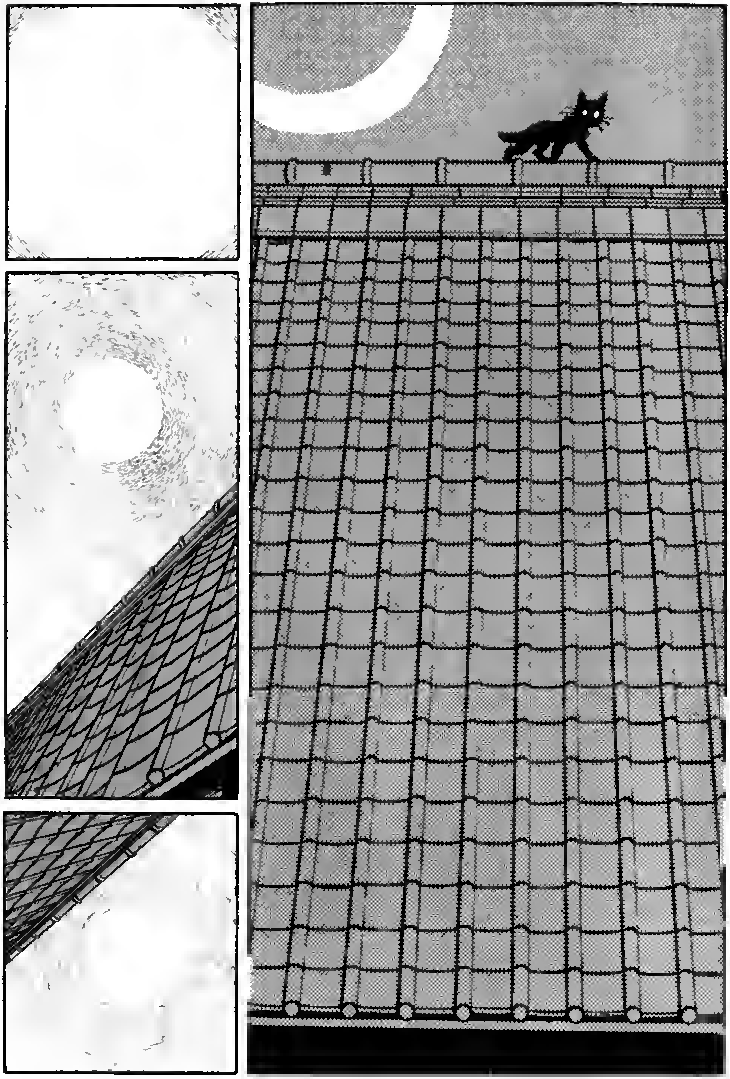
SABU & ICHI

Chapter 16
presented by
Hokuto no gun
and
Happy scans

Translated by SystematicChaos
Cleaned by Wright
Typesetting by Kazuhiko

Chapter 17: Ghost Story of the Haunted Black Cat


ネコ



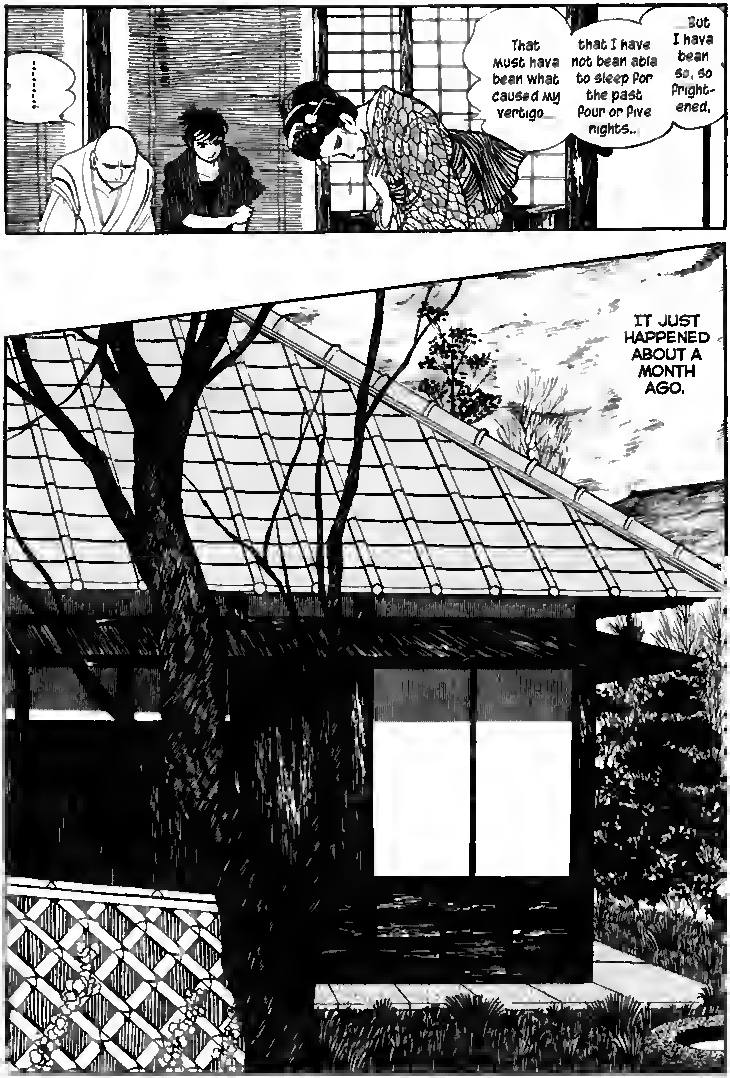
Huh!?
No!
You should stay lying down for a little while longer.
...Ah!
Oh!

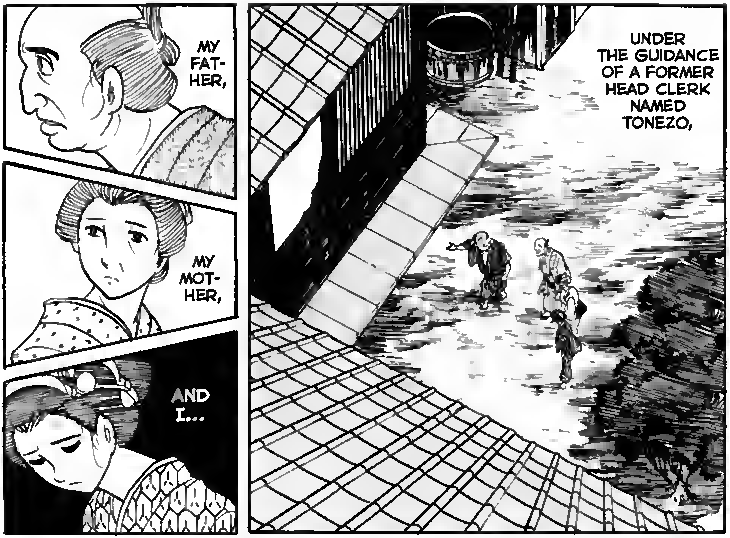
Where am I ? What am I doing here..?
I-I'm sorry, but..
Your face is still pale..
Are you alright?
I...I know, but..
Oh!
You're awake!
They were shocked... And they carried you here.
And my friends Sabu and Ichi just happened to be passing by...
You... had fainted on the side of the alley.
.....
You've suffered from sun-stroke haven't you?
...But should you really be awake...?
Heh. It's nothing
My deepest apologies. It seems I have caused you trouble...

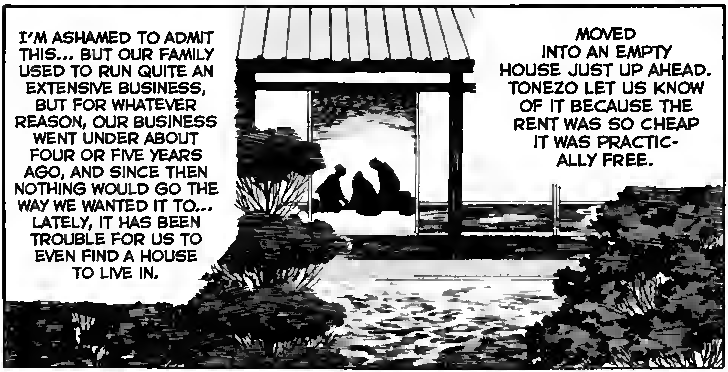
But you really should rest a little more...
You don't have to feel constrained here.
Thanks to you...
But I'm fine now.
...Yes.
It's been sweltering outside for the past two or three days
And it's so hot today...
But... your face... is still white as paper.
But I really cannot stay any longer...
Yes.
Thank you.
...You always get like this when you see a pretty girl...
Well at least let me walk you... Ow!
Is that so?
I truly thank you.
I will give you a token of my gratitude another day.

W-What's the matter!?
A...A black cat...
A-A ghost!

L-Look, that's just...
...our neighbor Sakakibara's pet kuro.
.....

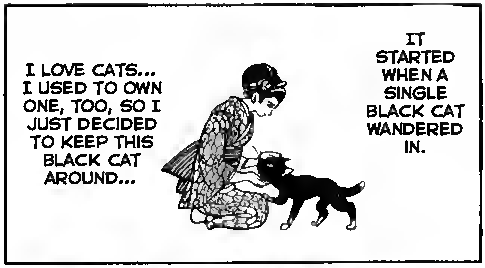

.....
That must have been what caused my vertigo...
that I have not been able to sleep for the past four or five nights...
But I have been so, so frightened.
IT JUST HAPPENED ABOUT A MONTH AGO.

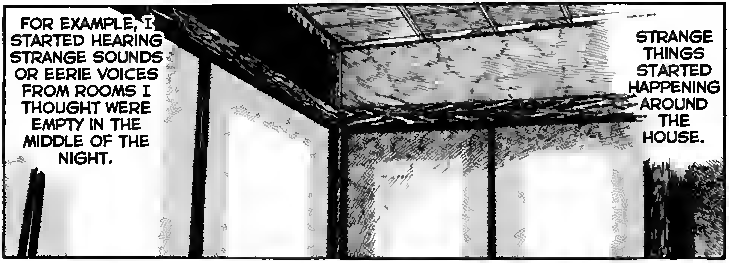

MY FATHER,
MY MOTHER,
AND I...
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A FORMER HEAD CLERK NAMED TONEZO,


I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT THIS... BUT OUR FAMILY USED TO RUN QUITE AN EXTENSIVE BUSINESS, BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON, OUR BUSINESS WENT UNDER ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO, AND SINCE THEN NOTHING WOULD GO THE WAY WE WANTED IT TO... LATELY, IT HAS BEEN TROUBLE FOR US TO EVEN FIND A HOUSE TO LIVE IN.
MOVED INTO AN EMPTY HOUSE JUST UP AHEAD. TONEZO LET US KNOW OF IT BECAUSE THE RENT WAS SO CHEAP IT WAS PRACTICALLY FREE.

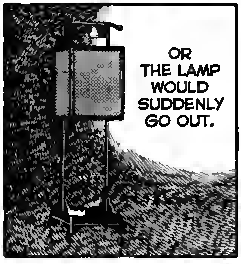
BUT TEN DAYS AGO, WHEN WE HAD FINALLY CAUGHT OUR BREATHS AFTER THE BUSTLE OF MOVING...

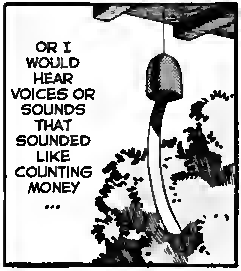
BUT SOON ...

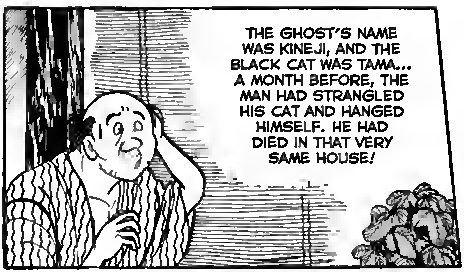

I LOVE CATS... I USED TO OWN ONE, TOO, SO I JUST DECIDED TO KEEP THIS BLACK CAT AROUND...
IT STARTED WHEN A SINGLE BLACK CAT WANDERED IN.

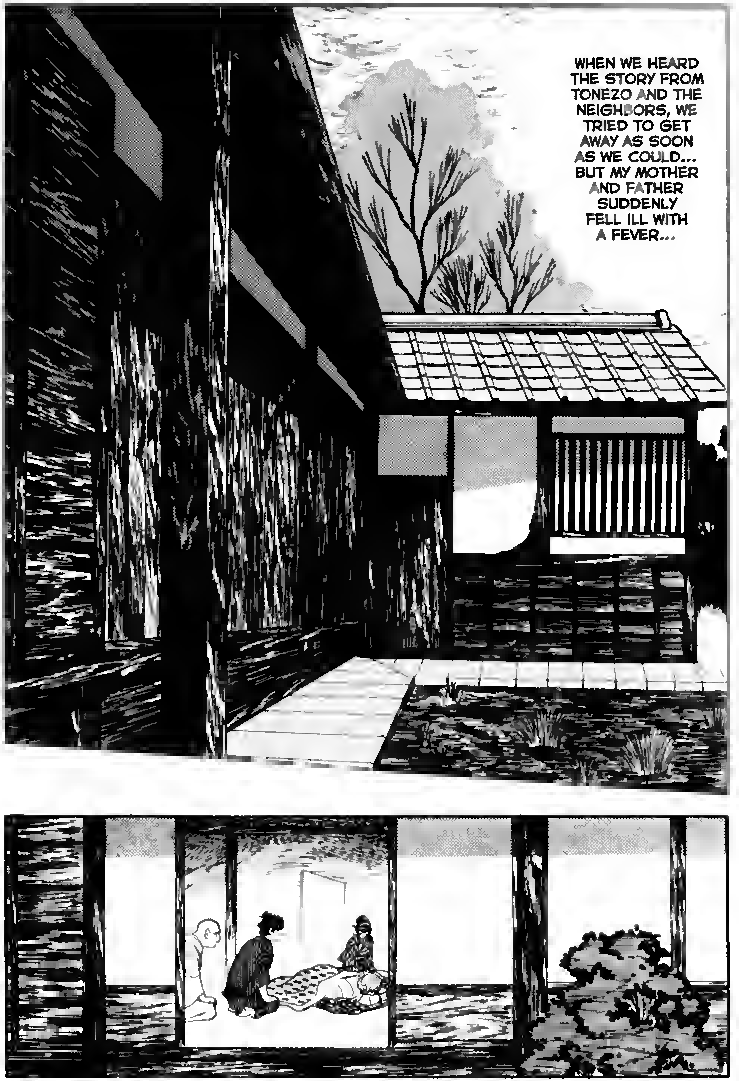

FOR EXAMPLE, I STARTED HEARING STRANGE SOUNDS OR EERIE VOICES FROM ROOMS I THOUGHT WERE EMPTY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
STRANGE THINGS STARTED HAPPENING AROUND THE HOUSE.

THEN FINALLY, A DISEMBODIED SOUL FLEW IN, AND I SAW A GHOST OF A MAN WITH A DREADFUL FACE...!


OR THE LAMP WOULD SUDDENLY GO OUT.


OR I WOULD HEAR VOICES OR SOUNDS THAT SOUNDED LIKE COUNTING MONEY ...

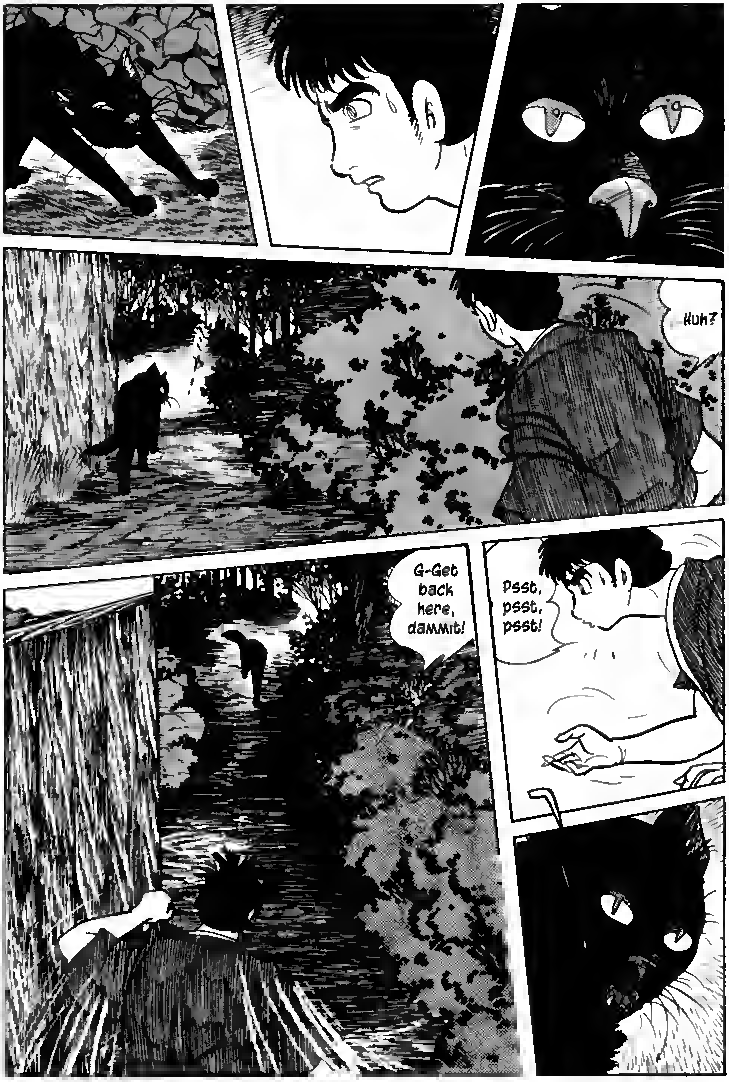

THE GHOST'S NAME WAS KINEJI, AND THE BLACK CAT WAS TAMA... A MONTH BEFORE, THE MAN HAD STRANGLED HIS CAT AND HANGED HIMSELF. HE HAD DIED IN THAT VERY SAME HOUSE!


WHEN WE HEARD THE STORY FROM TONEZO AND THE NEIGHBORS, WE TRIED TO GET AWAY AS SOON AS WE COULD... BUT MY MOTHER AND FATHER SUDDENLY FELL ILL WITH A FEVER...

These people said they would start staying here tonight
Hey...
I-I'm sure this sickness... is the curse of the man and the cat.
Please, calm down,
Mother, Father!
Hehehehe... You don't... actually believe there's a ghost... do ya?
Of course not!
If that ghost comes in tonight, we'll catch him.
Heh...
Hehehe It's nothing
I'm so sorry to be burdening you with all of this
We are ever grateful for your consideration.
So you can all sleep easy...
and expose his trick for you...

Heh. You're all talk, aren'cha, Sabu?
..Well, we'll be out questioning the neighbors while it's still light out..
We're big fans of ghosts 'n stuff...
Shhh!
I don't really like them, either.
I'm not. I'm scared of 'em.
You're a big fan of ghosts ...!?
Good grief, you're always like this when you meet a pretty lady ...!
I guess you're not as scared of a ghost as you are of Midori when you get home...!
But it was better for me to say that in front of Hina...
Hehehe..
I'll go sniff out the area. .
Well... why don't we split up here?
Tch. That really hurts, man.
Goddammit, everything he says rubs me the wrong way!
Make sure you look everywhere.
Not just at Hina's face. Hehhehhe.
Meanwhile, I'll go look around and inside the house.
Yeah, I'll leave that to you.

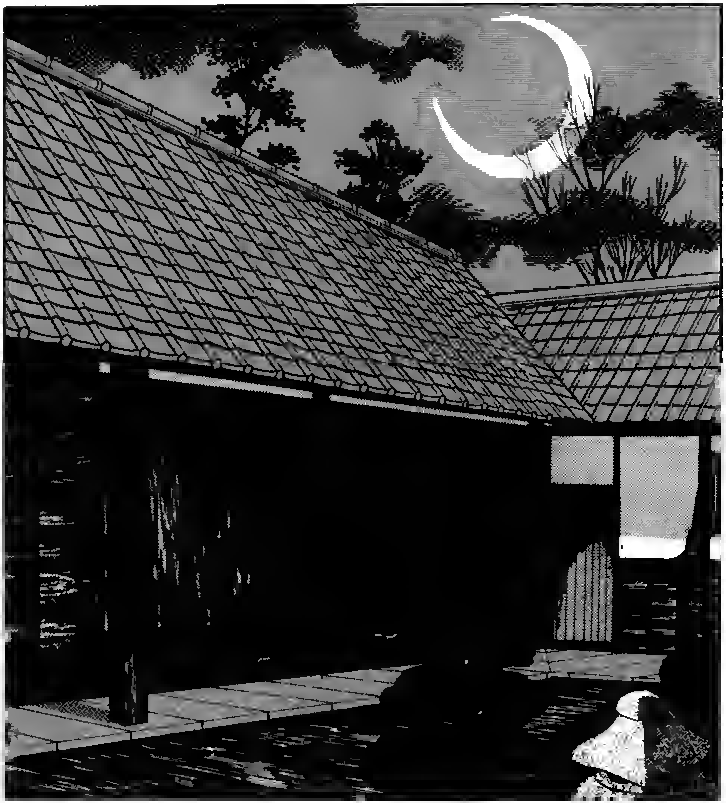
What's wrong!?
Hina!
Ta ma..!


Huh?
G-Get back here, dammit!
Psst, psst, psst!

T-That little bastard
Where'd it go!?
...It's gone...!
Has that cat... always been here..?
Which means that to-night...
And the next day the ghost appears, it comes again and..
It suddenly vanishes on days the ghost appears...
N...No, you see..

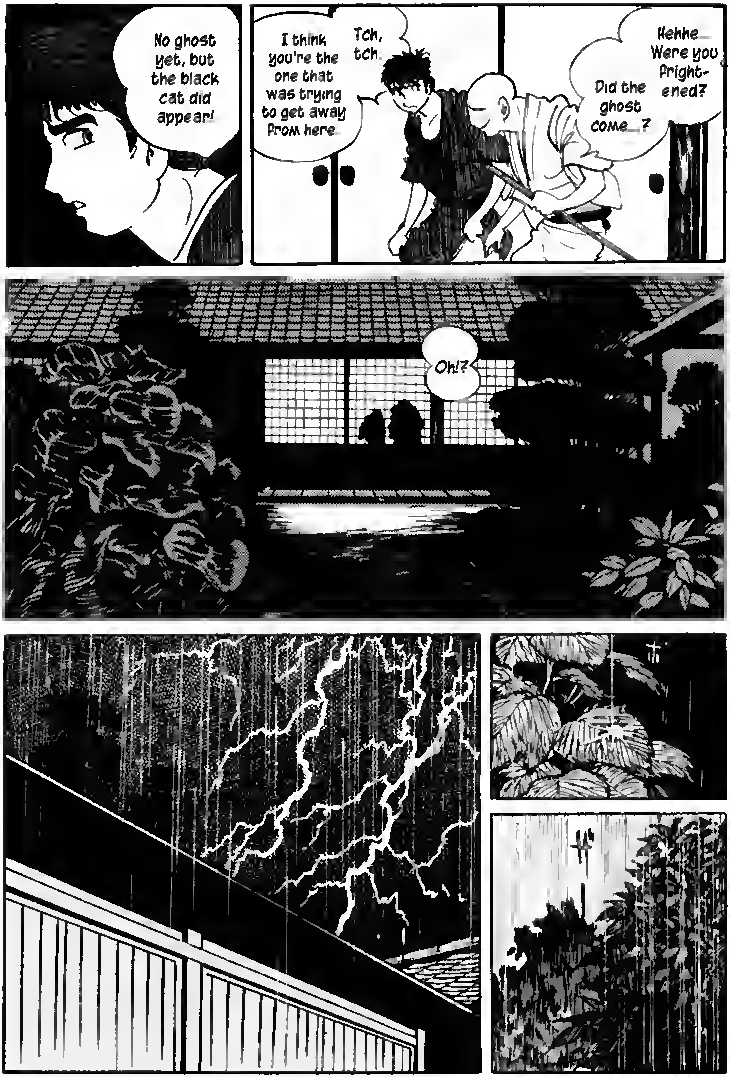
...Oh, so you say that the late Mr. Kinaji moved there a year ago...
and rarely went out to meet his neighbors
Oh what? I don't know that much.
He was scared all the time!
Well, I tell ya,
And when he did come out, he would avoid the public eye..
Yes, he would spend all his time cooped up in that house
...By the way, does a man named Tonezo live somewhere around here?
Maybe he was worried about his face.
I saw him now and then a month or two before he died

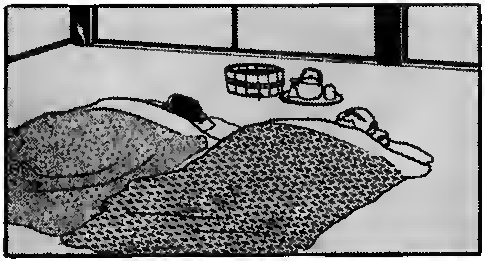
Heh... Course I heard 'am.
Kinaji's ghost stories?
I didn't exactly expect his ghost to be haunting the place.
But y'know...
Who's there?
I have a feeling my kindness might've back-fired, though...
So he begged me to at least give him a place to stay... I was a little reluctant, but I called him over anyway.
My employer at the store I served as an apprentice at heard rumors that he was living in Shinagawa, and that he struggled to make it past each day.

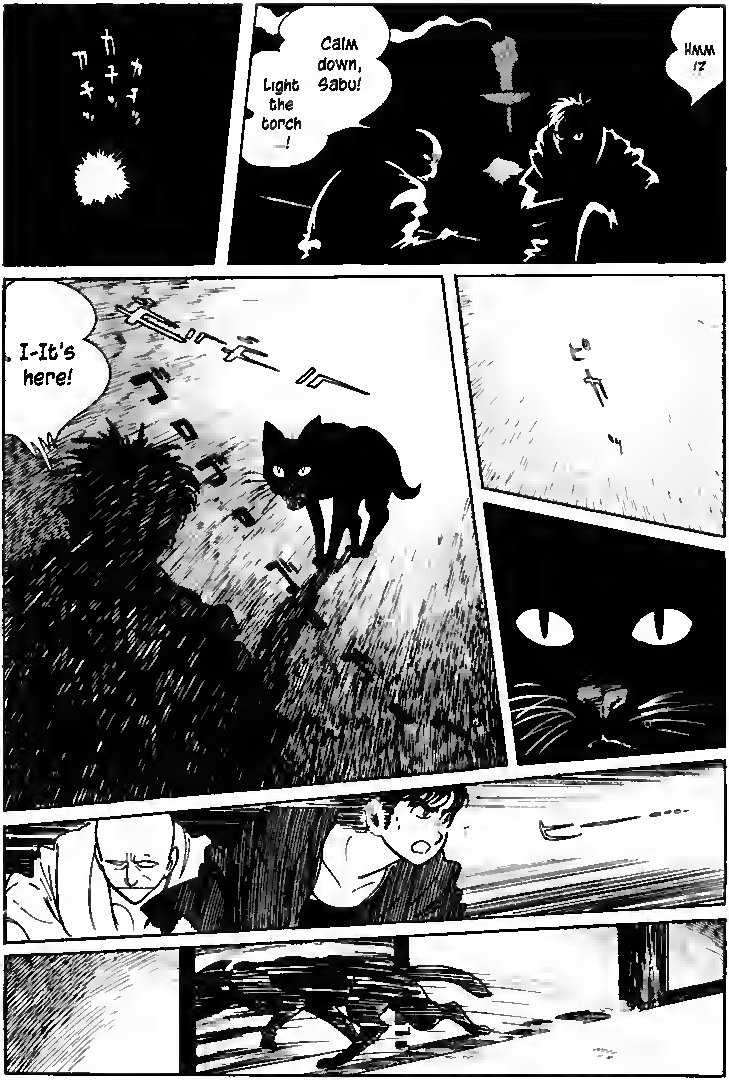


I just had to stretch my legs a bit.. Hehhe...

Sorry, sorry
Ichi!
You're late! Where've you been ...?


No ghost yet, but the black cat did appear!
I think you're the one that was trying to get away from here.
Tch, tch.
Hehhe... Were you frightened?
Did the ghost come...?
Oh!?

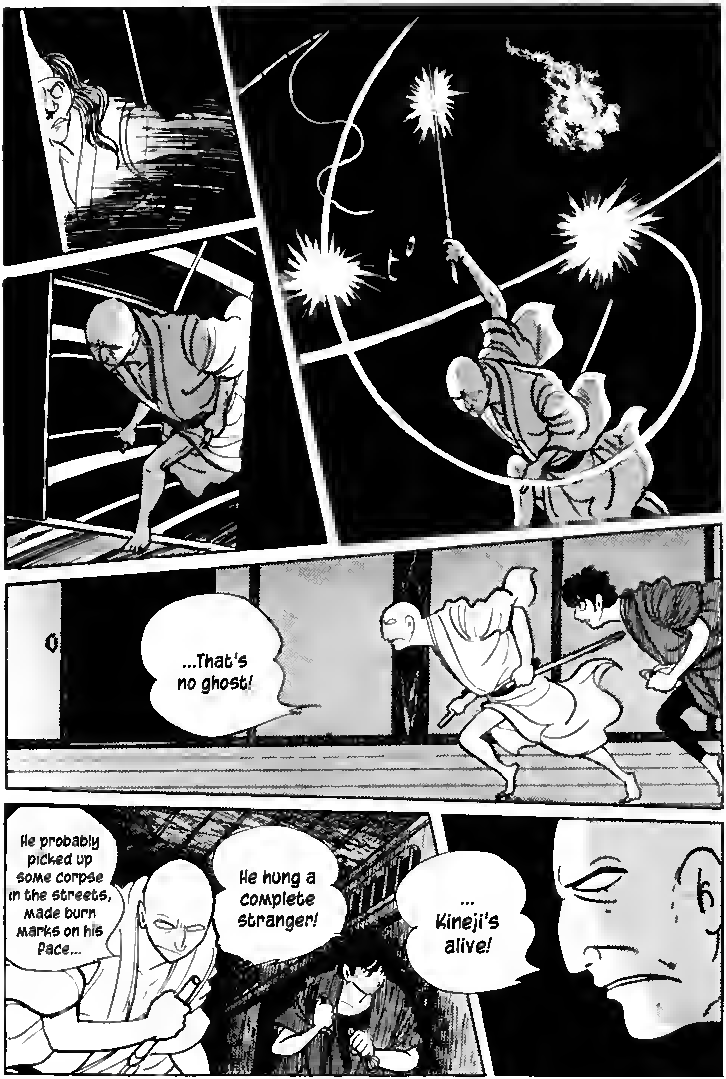



カチッ
カチッ
Calm down, Sabu!
Light the torch!
Hmm
I-It's here!

That was Hina!
Huh!?
The cat's possessing her...!?
T-The cat!?
Who's there!?

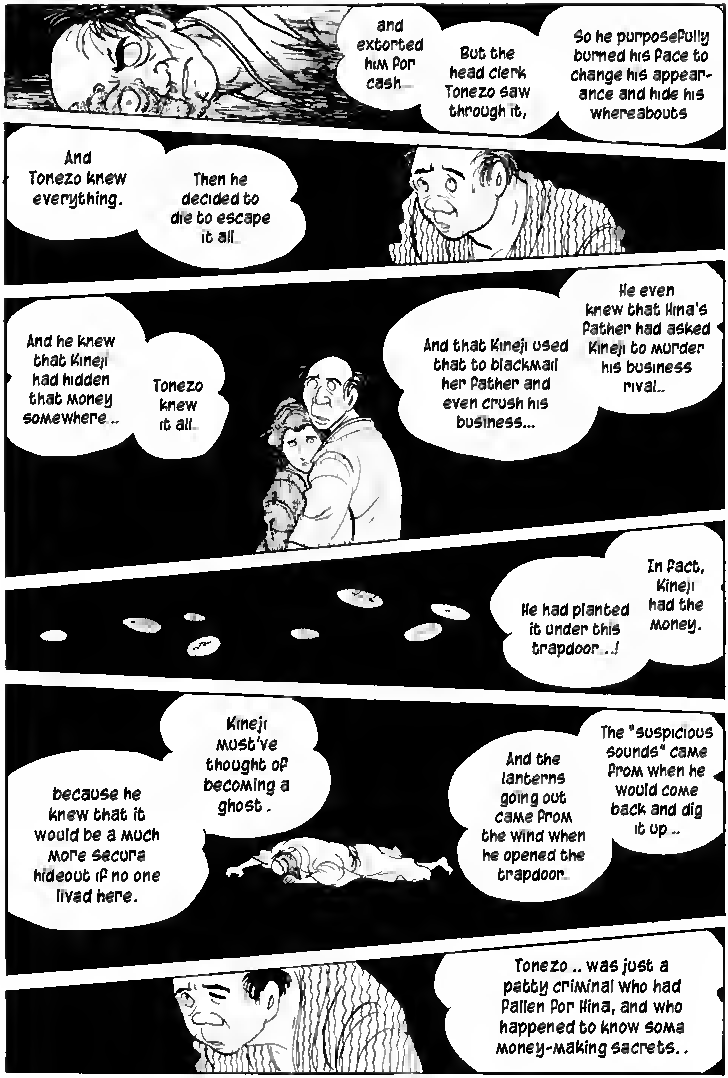
Tone-zo!?
U-Uwaaah! I-I-I was just worried about Hina...!
..W-Who are you..!?

A....
Ahhhh...


...That's no ghost!
He probably picked up some corpse in the streets, made burn marks on his face...
He hung a complete stranger!
... Kineji's alive!

So. He purposefully showed his neighbors his burnt face before his hanging ruse
...No one has ever gotten a clear look at Kinji's face! and hung him!
Ichi!
Heh... A trap-door, eh?
Sabu, I guess you were just watching Kina's face after all.
Wah!

Ack!
...Kineji was a wanted man.
A murderer...


and extorted him for cash...
But the head clerk Tonezo saw through it,
So he purposefully burned his face to change his appearance and hide his whereabouts
And Tonezo knew everything.
Then he decided to die to escape it all...
And he knew that Kineji had hidden that money somewhere...
Tonezo knew it all...
And that Kineji used that to blackmail her father and even crush his business...
He even knew that Hina's father had asked Kineji to murder his business rival...
He had planted it under this trapdoor...!
In fact, Kineji had the money.
because he knew that it would be a much more secure hideout if no one lived here.
Kineji must've thought of becoming a ghost.
And the lanterns going out came from the wind when he opened the trapdoor...
The "suspicious sounds" came from when he would come back and dig it up...
Tonezo .. was just a petty criminal who had fallen for Hina, and who happened to know some money-making secrets..

The couple's fever was due to the ghost being the very man whom they had asked to murder, and who blackmailed them out of their fortune...
And Nina's catlike outburst_ was because she was in so much terror she went temporarily insane...
WHAT...

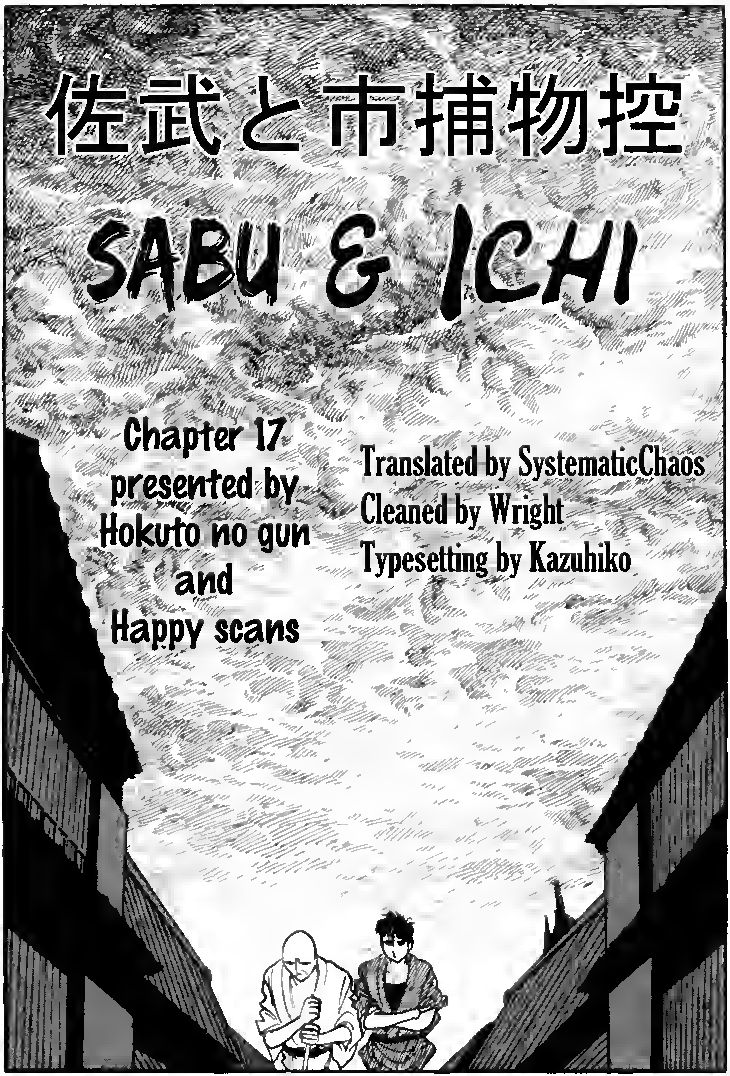
July 1970: "Ghost Story of the Haunted Black Cat" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控

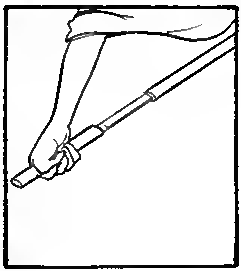
SABU & ICHI

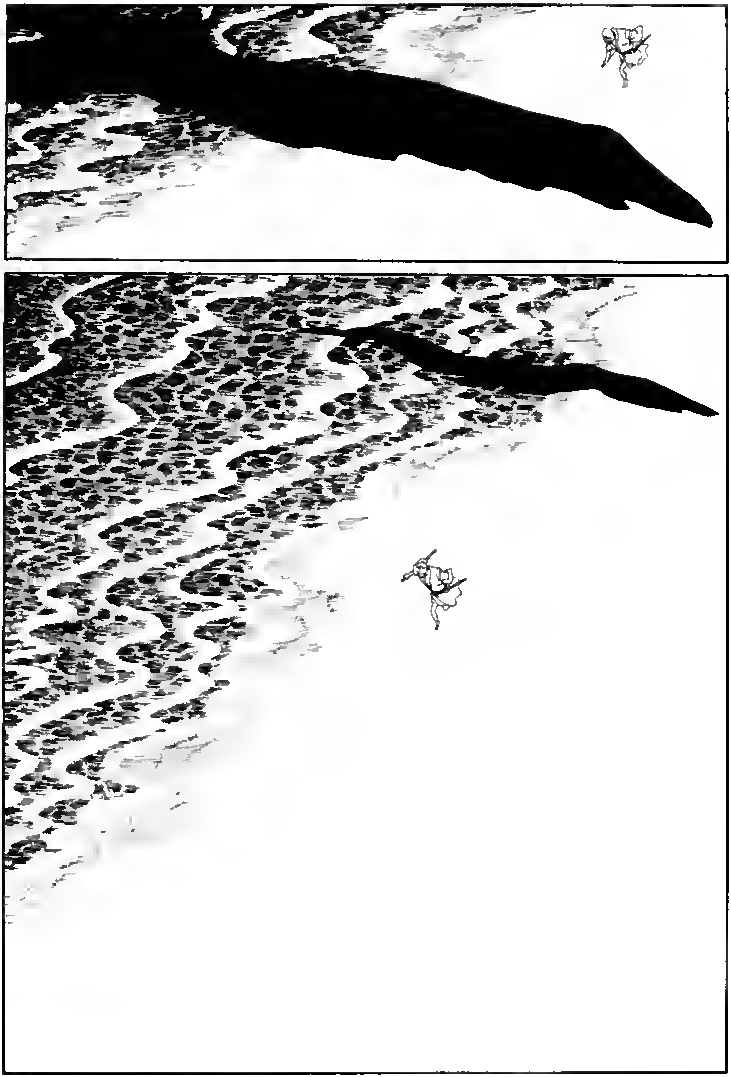
Chapter 17
presented by
Hokuto no gun
and
Happy scans

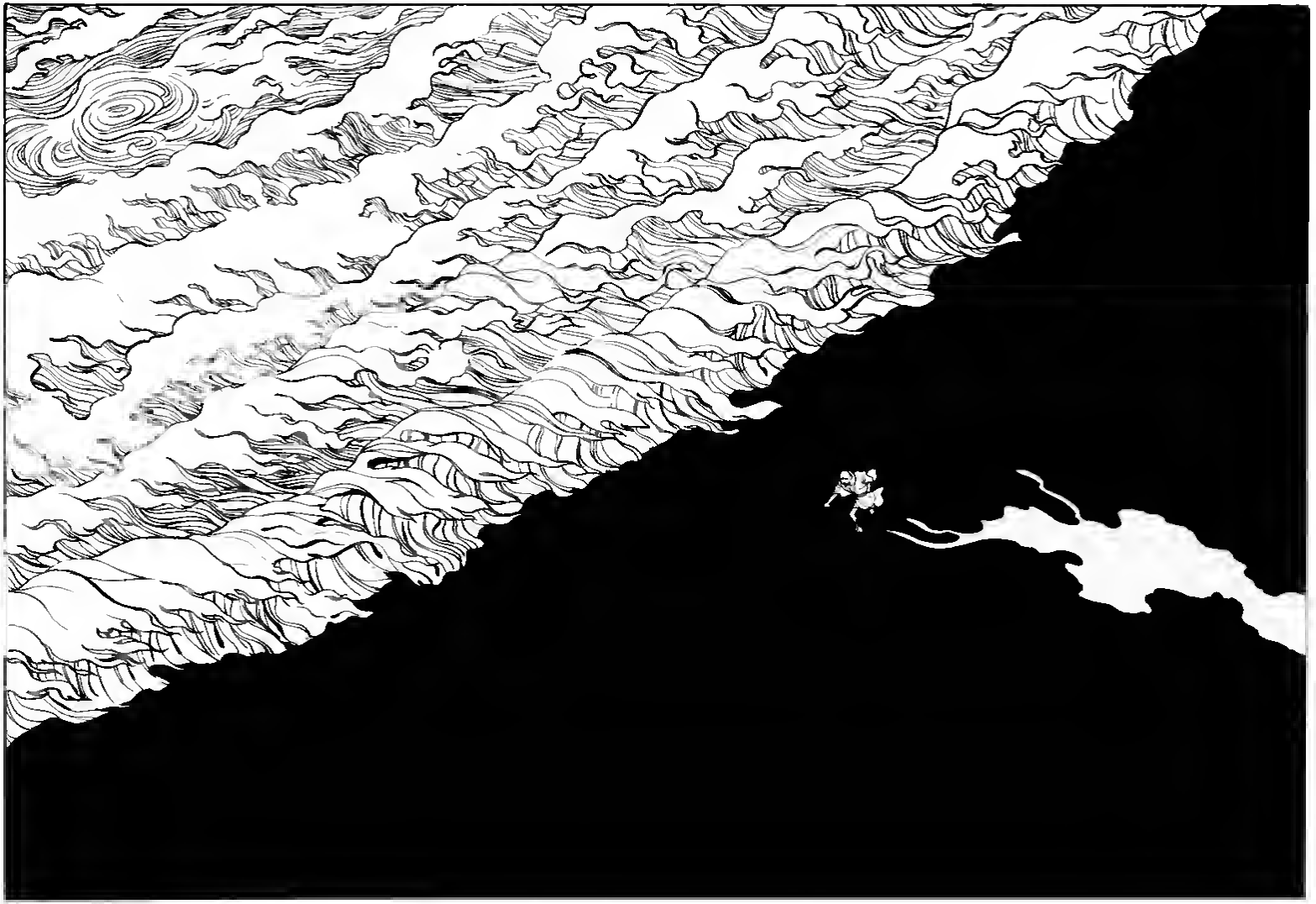
Translated by SystematicChaos
Cleaned by Wright
Typesetting by Kazuhiko

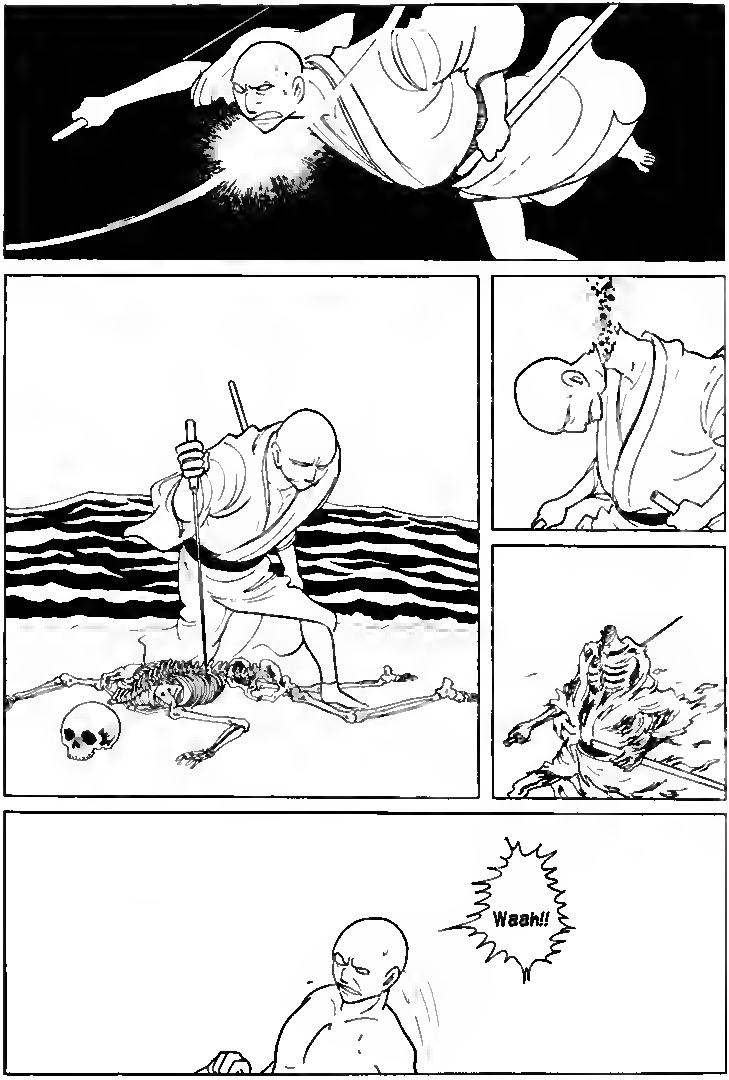


Chapter 18: The Hot Wind

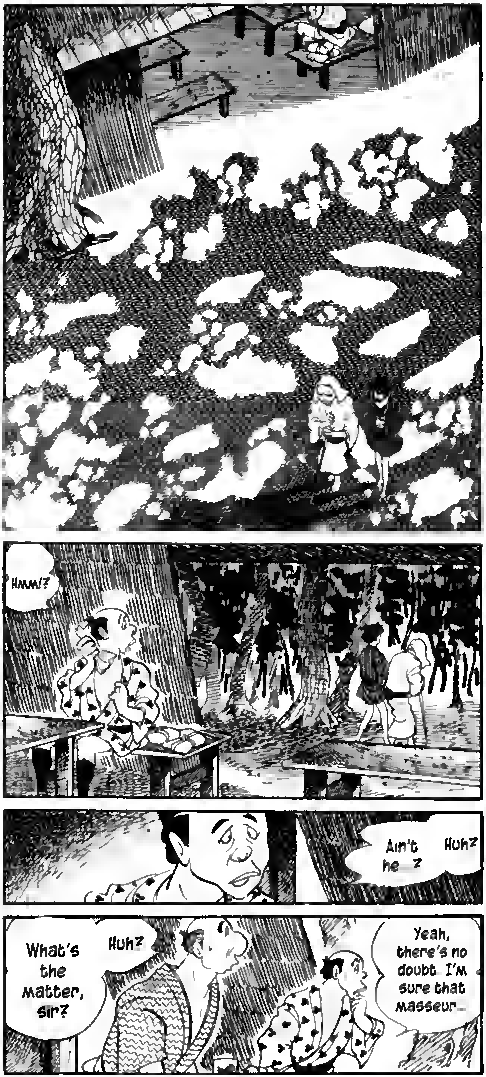


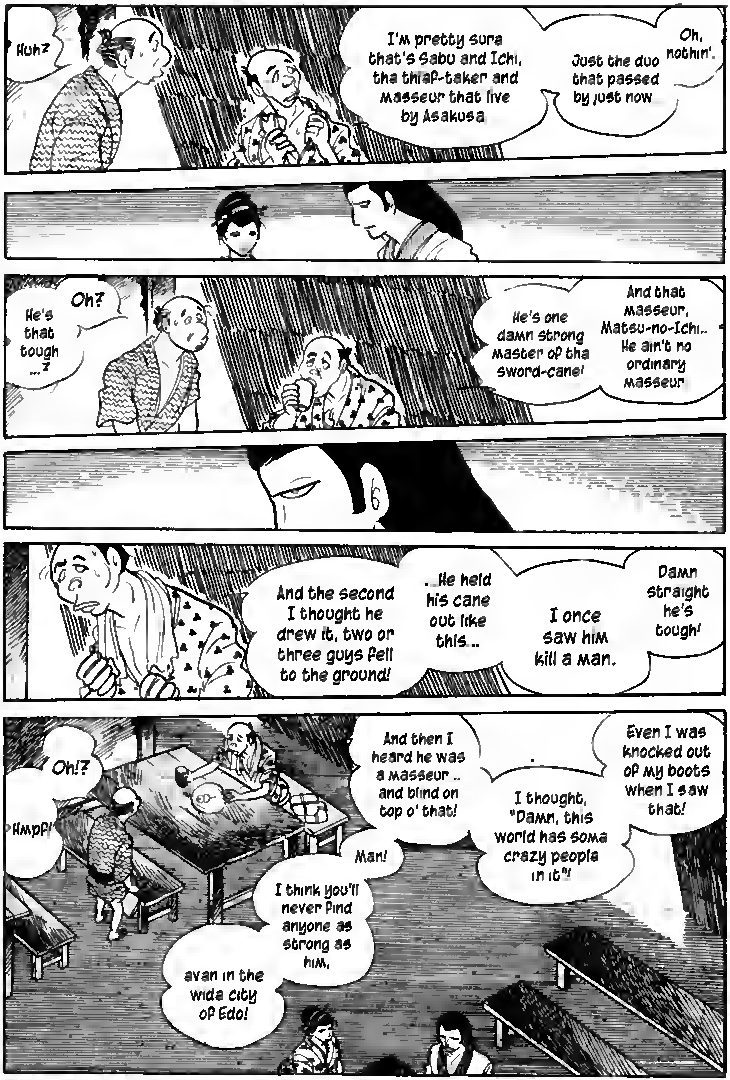





Waah!!

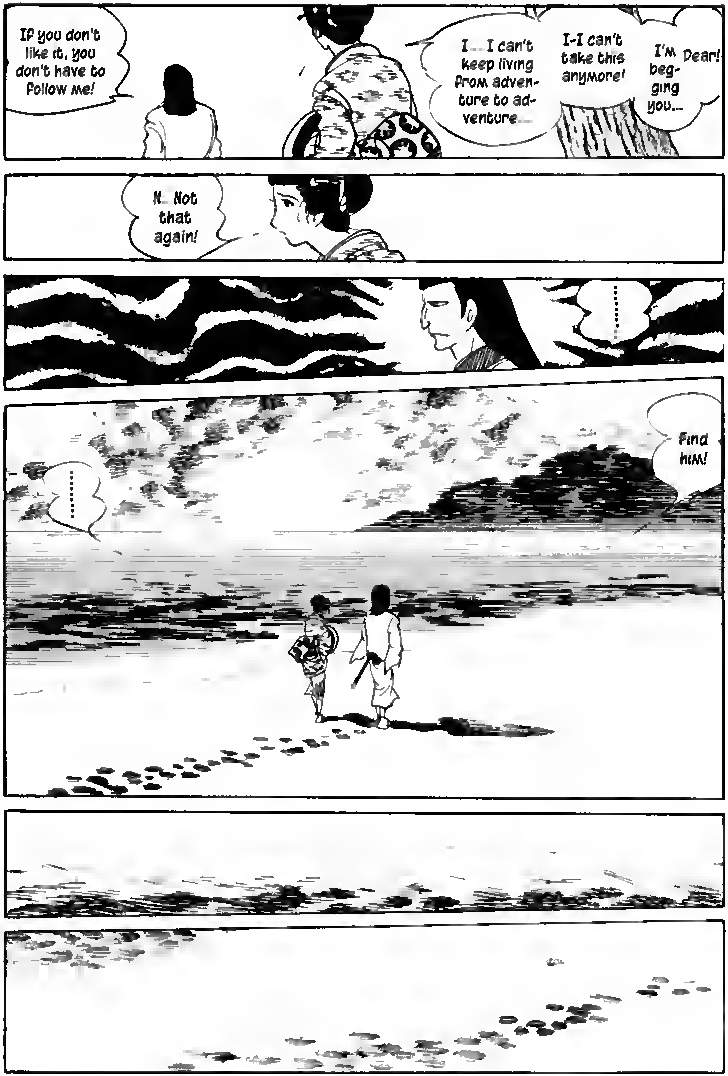
...
Huh?
Hey, Ichi!
The sun's already pretty high in the sky.
Hehehe... What a sleepy-head.
What, you just got up?
...
Dammit.
..Oh, is it that late already?
Heh.. hehe, you can say that again.
I can see why. You've been sleeping in such a hot place...
...You're sweating really bad, Ichi.
Ahhh, I really feel like taking it easy!
and spend the whole day by the beach!
Now, let's hurry up and grab some breakfast.

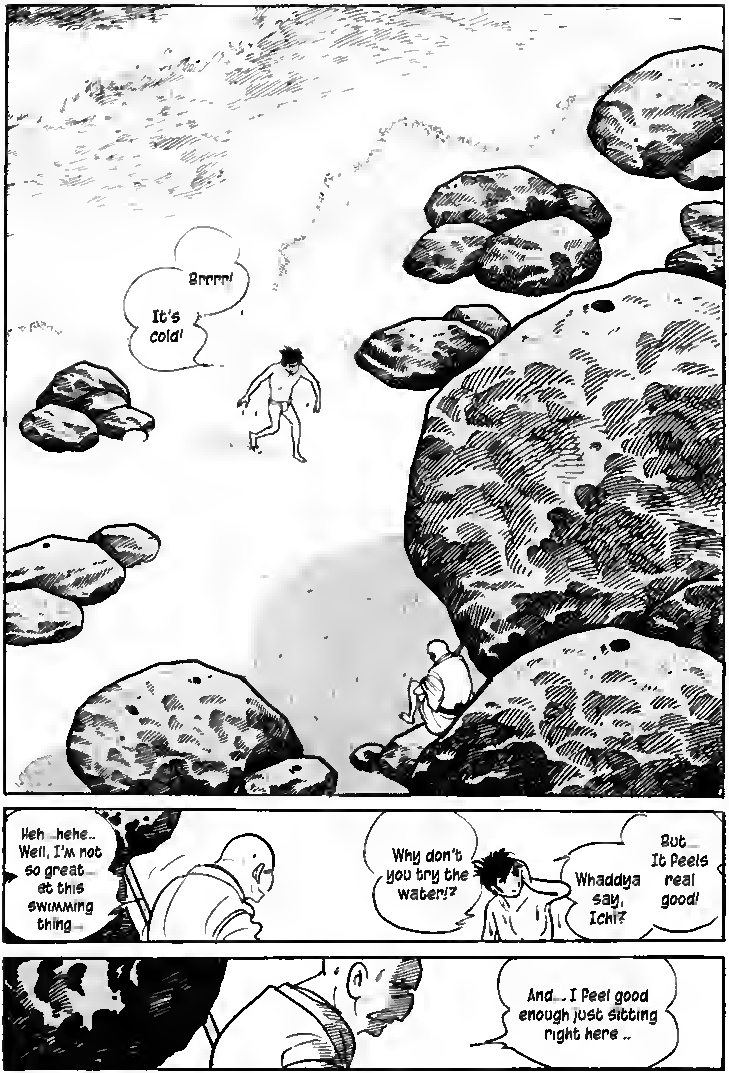

Hmm!?
Huh?
Ain't he z
What's the matter, sir?
Huh?
Yeah, there's no doubt I'm sure that masseur...

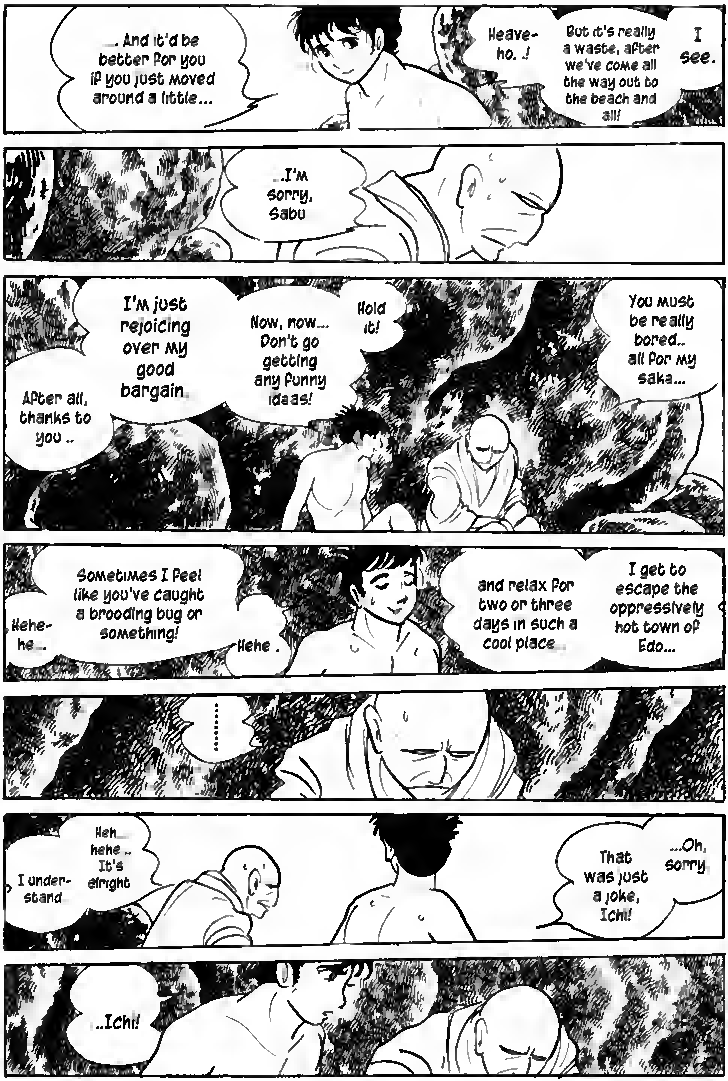

Huh?
I'm pretty sure that's Sabu and Ichi, the thief-taker and masseur that live by Asakusa
Just the duo that passed by just now
Oh, nothin'.
Oh?
He's that tough...?
He's one damn strong master of the sword-cane!
And that masseur, Matsu-no-Ichi.. He ain't no ordinary masseur
And the second I thought he drew it, two or three guys fell to the ground!
..He held his cane out like this...
I once saw him kill a man.
Damn straight he's tough!
Oh!?
HMPF!
And then I heard he was a masseur .. and blind on top o' that!
Even I was knocked out of my boots when I saw that!
I thought, "Damn, this world has some crazy people in it"!
Man!
I think you'll never find anyone as strong as him,
even in the wide city of Edo!

What the hell's he doin' here...?
But that said and all...
Dear!?
Yes, thanks...
U-Uh, we'll leave the money here.
Dear!!
Where are you going?
..Those two they had mentioned... Which way were they headed?
Tone!

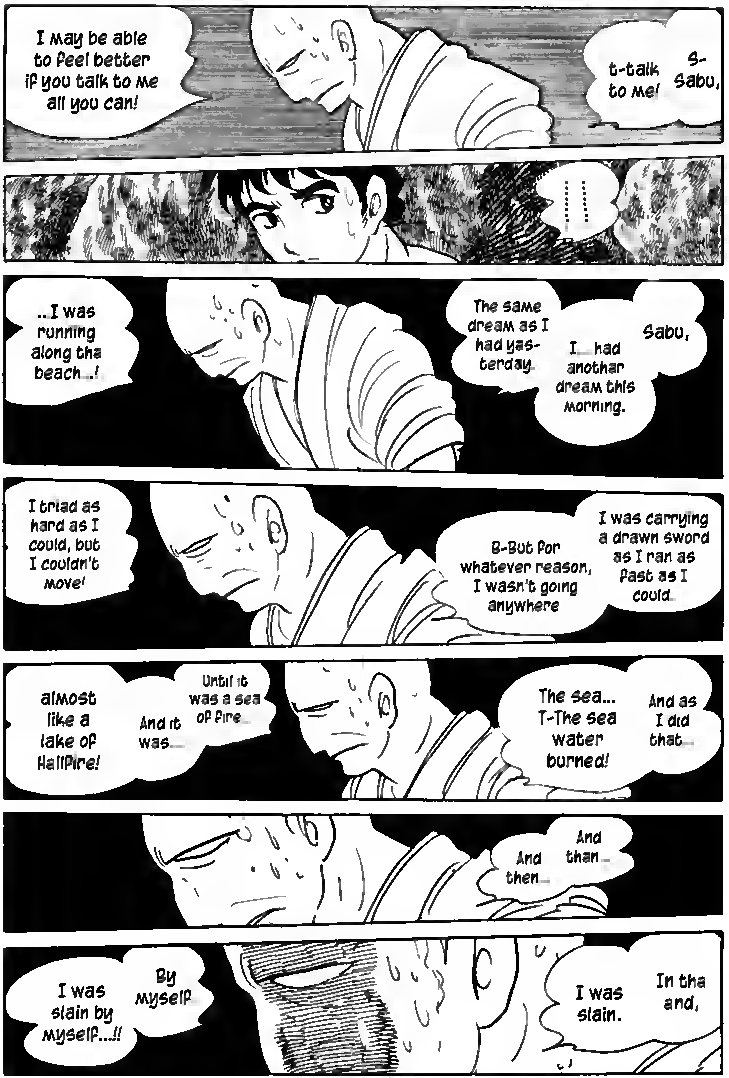
I said, which way were they headed!?
Please, don't do this!!
Let's just get to Edo, now!!
I-I didn't see them.
I don't know...
Don't lie to me... Tone!
...Which way were they going?
T...To the sea...
Come on, dear!
I'm sure that masseur was just an ordinary masseur...
That man was a liar!
I'm sure it was just a tall tale!
That traveler's tale...
Please, dear...
...Where is he?
Hehehe... We'll know when we meet him


If you don't like it, you don't have to follow me!
I... I can't keep living from adventure to adventure...
I-I can't take this anymore!
I'm begging you... Dear!
N... Not that again!
Find him!

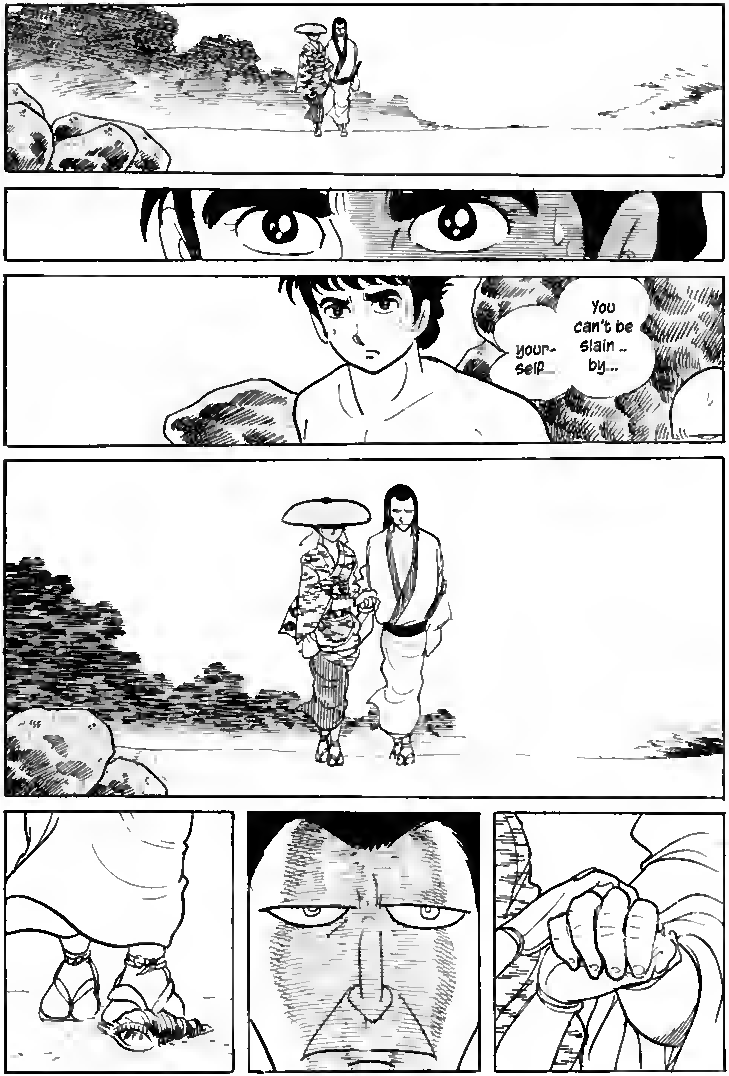

Brrrr!
It's cold!
Heh...hehe.. Well, I'm not so great at this swimming thing...
Why don't you try the water!?
Whaddya say, Ichi?
But... It feels real good!
And... I feel good enough just sitting right here..


...And it'd be better for you if you just moved around a little...
Heave-ho..!
But it's really a waste, after we've come all the way out to the beach and all!
I see.
...I'm sorry, Sabu
I'm just rejoicing over my good bargain.
Now, now... Don't go getting any funny ideas!
Hold it!
You must be really bored... all for my sake...
After all, thanks to you..
Sometimes I feel like you've caught a brooding bug or something!
Hehe-he...
Hehe.
and relax for two or three days in such a cool place...
I get to escape the oppressively hot town of Edo...
.....
Heh... hehe.. It's alright
I under-stand
That was just a joke, Ichi!
...Oh, sorry
...Ichi!

S-Sabu!
Ichi!
This morning, I-I...
I'm just no good. . and I'm getting worse!
I- I'm no good!
Why... did I take up the sword cane!?
Why'd I have to go blind?
I-I-I... I hate myself sometimes.
Sabu,
I wouldn't have to think about nothing but that all day, every day.
A-And if I hadn't gone blind... and I could see all sorts of wonderful things with my eyes...
...If I hadn't killed anyone, I wouldn't have to be troubled by their deaths.
When the wet season rolls around... There's nothing to do but sit in the house, listening to the sound of the rain.
And it's not so bad when they can still go outside.
Blind men have no way to entertain themselves but sit in the darkness and think over everything!
Telling a blind man to stop thinking is like telling him to stop breathing.
Ichi!
Ichi!!
What am I...
What am I...
With that said, Sabu,


I may be able to feel better if you talk to me all you can!
t-talk to me!
S-Sabu,
.....
...I was running along tha beach...!
The same dream as I had yesterday.
I... had another dream this morning.
Sabu,
I tried as hard as I could, but I couldn't move!
B-But for whatever reason, I wasn't going anywhere
I was carrying a drawn sword as I ran as fast as I could.
almost like a lake of HellFire!
And it was...
Until it was a sea of fire...
The sea... T-The sea water burned!
And as I did that...
And then...
And than...
I was stain by myself...!!
By myself
I was slain.
In tha end,

That's why... That's why I've been struck with this awful curse!
Sob... I think I... have killed too many people... I've grown too strong for my blindness...
I-Ichi, pull yourself together!
I'm sure Master Gensai told you not to brood over those pointless things...
That's why we're here at the ocean!
And... as for that weird dream... Well, now that we're actually at the ocean...
I hope you're right...
I just feel... that it's a dream that might come true...
Heh, that's ridiculous...
...Hmm?

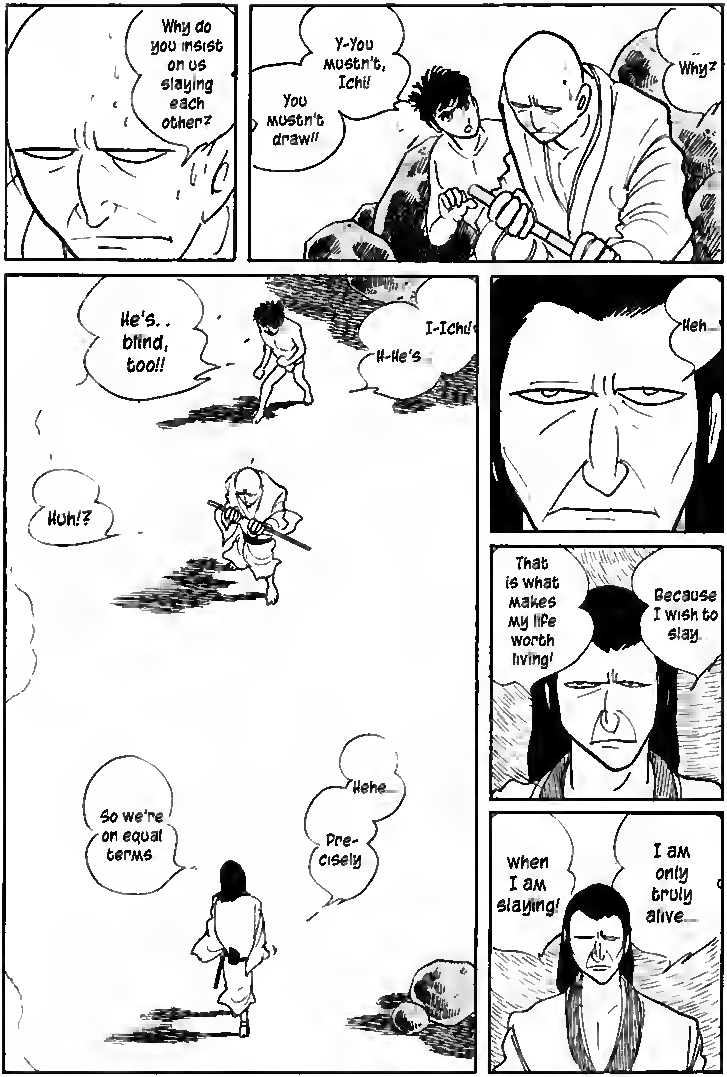

You can't be slain by...
yourself...

I seek the master of the sword cane and of the quick draw, the masseur Matsu-no-Ichi...
Is that you?
W-What's the matter, Sabu?
Is.. Is someone coming?
Y...You can't ..!
Yes?
You can't, Ichi!!

I request a duel!
I wouldn't dare...
S-Surely you jest...
I would not stay for a jest.
Heh..he.. This is no jest!
We're trying to rest here!
Just go away!
have you gone crazy or something?
Tch,
You just show up and..
Who the hell are you?
H-Hey, what the hell are you talking about?
Didn't you hear me? I said get lost!
Now see here, third-rate!
I-I've got this! You stay back, Ichi!
S-Sabu!?
H-He's right, dear... Let's go!
You're the one who should stay back!
Shut up.. kid.

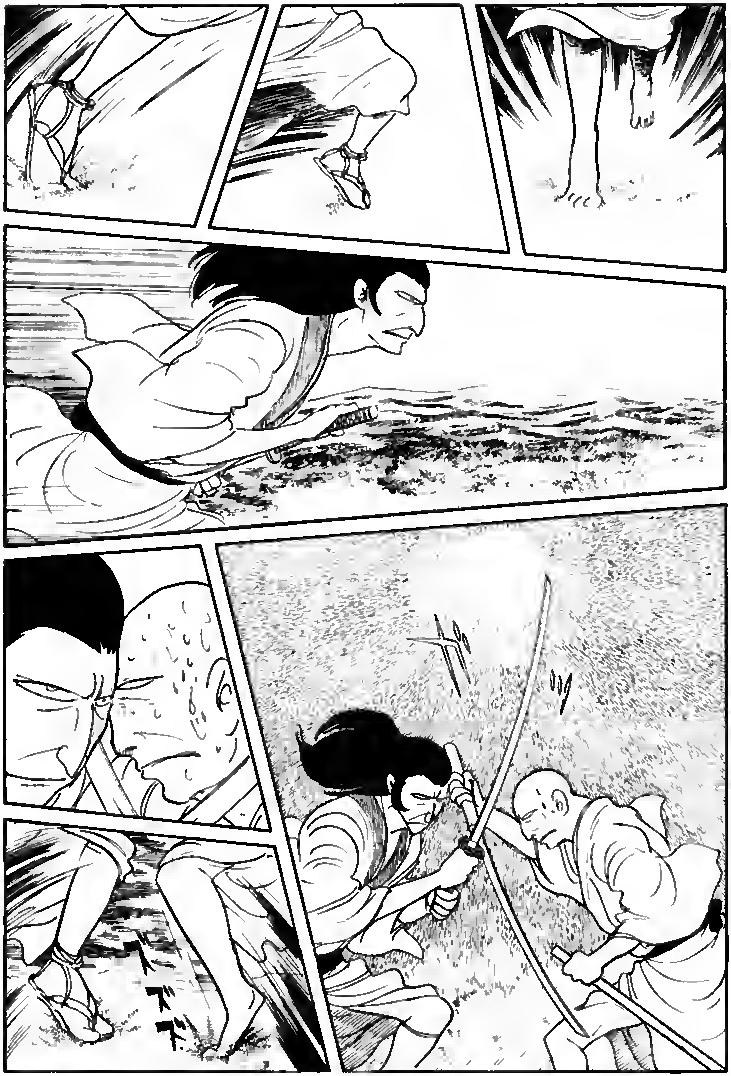
This... is between me and the masseur!
Y-y-you... bastard!
W-What was that?
N-No, you can't... Ichi!!
...Sabu...
Oh?
So you'll take me on, masseur?
I... do not know who you might be.
And sometimes I run into unskilled men... That's all there is to it...
I just... draw my sword cane when I'M cornered...
Heh heh, but it's really what you'd call blind swordsmanship...
I do have some degree of skill, but...
...I guess you're right...
N-No,
that you can't draw unless you're cornered!?
Or are you saying,
Hehe.. We won't know about that... until I've tested you!

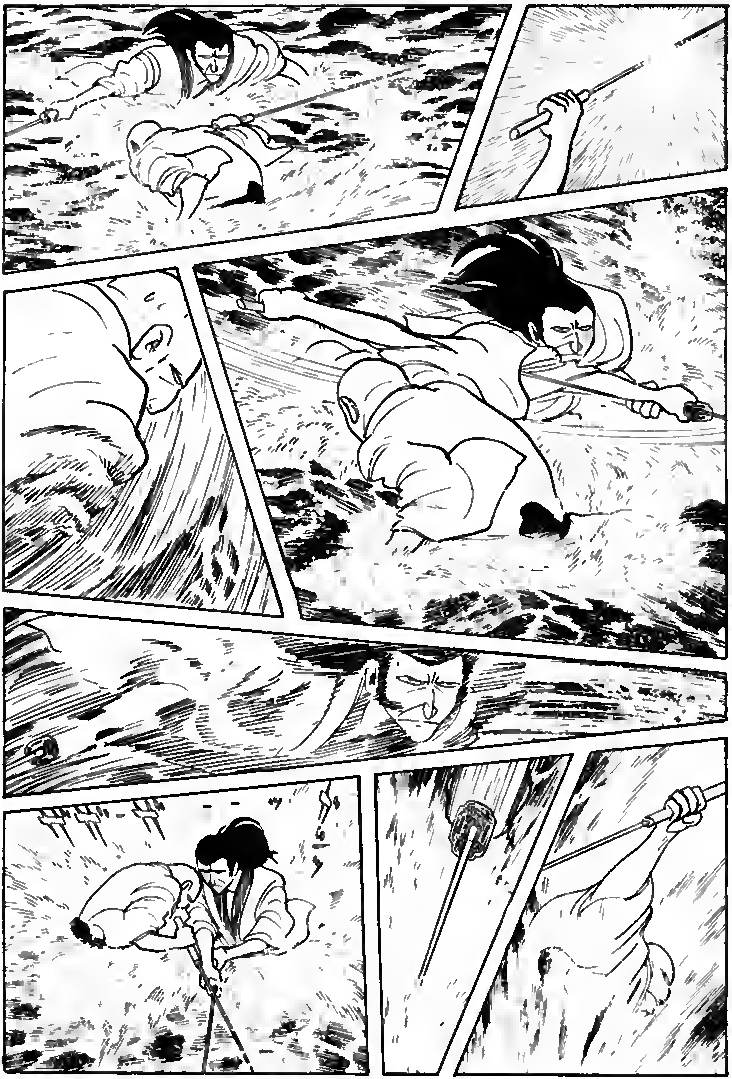
Y-Y-You jack-ass!
W-What the hell did you just do!?
D... Dear...
Dea...r... W...Why... Me..!?
ﾋｭｰﾋｭｰ
If that wasn't enough for you...
I can shut that blabber-mouth kid up for you, masseur!


Why do you insist on us slaying each other?
Y-You mustn't, Ichi!
You mustn't draw!!
Why?
He's.. blind, too!!
I-Ichi!
H-He's
Huh!?
Heh...
That is what makes my life worth living!
Because I wish to slay.
Hehe...
So we're on equal terms.
Pre-cisely
When I am slaying!
I am only truly alive...

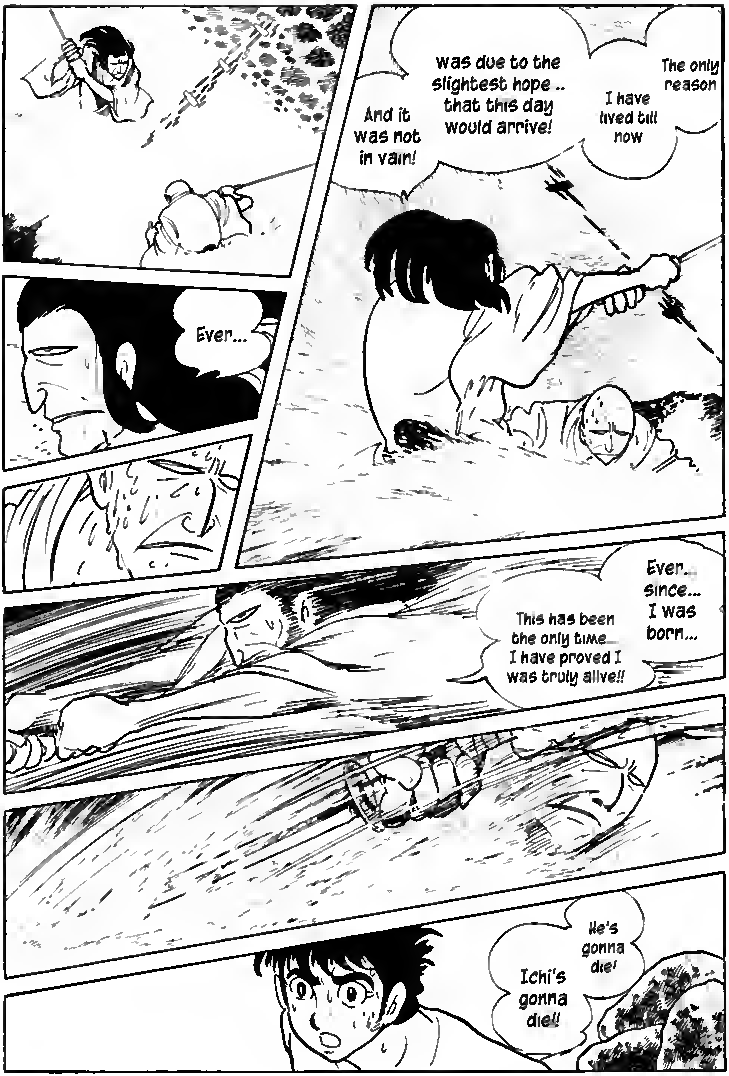
Don't you dare interfere!
Sabu, step back
Ichi!!

Ichi's gonna get killed!!
O-Oh, god, oh, god!
He's even more skilled..
than Ichi!!

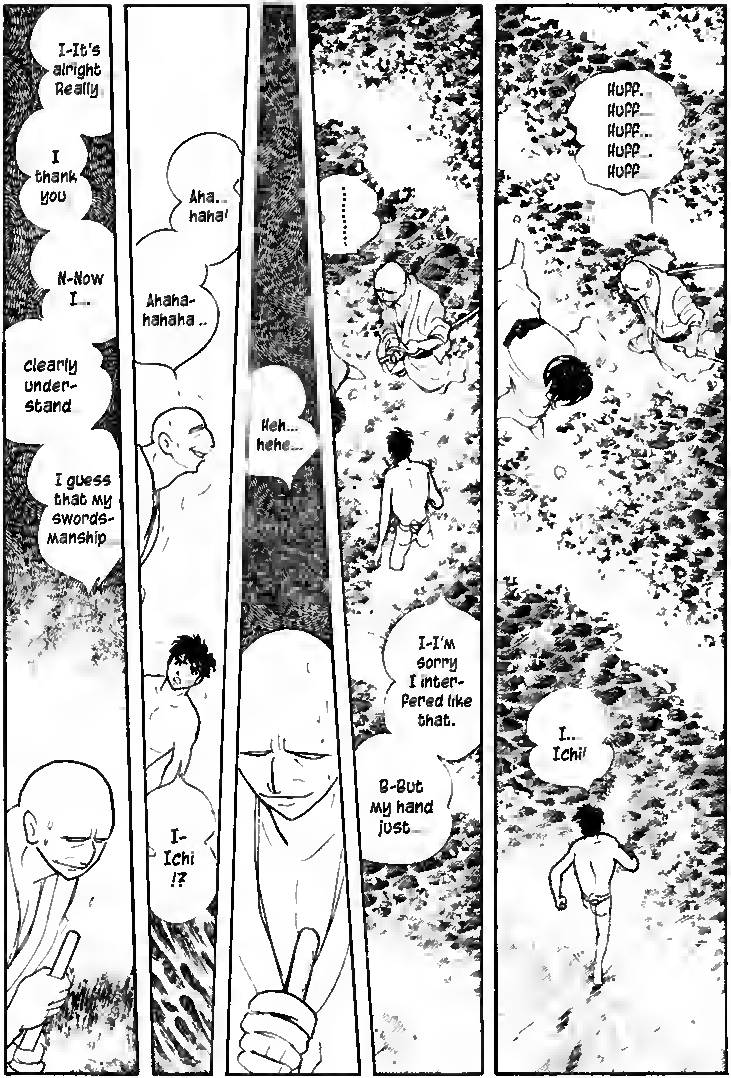


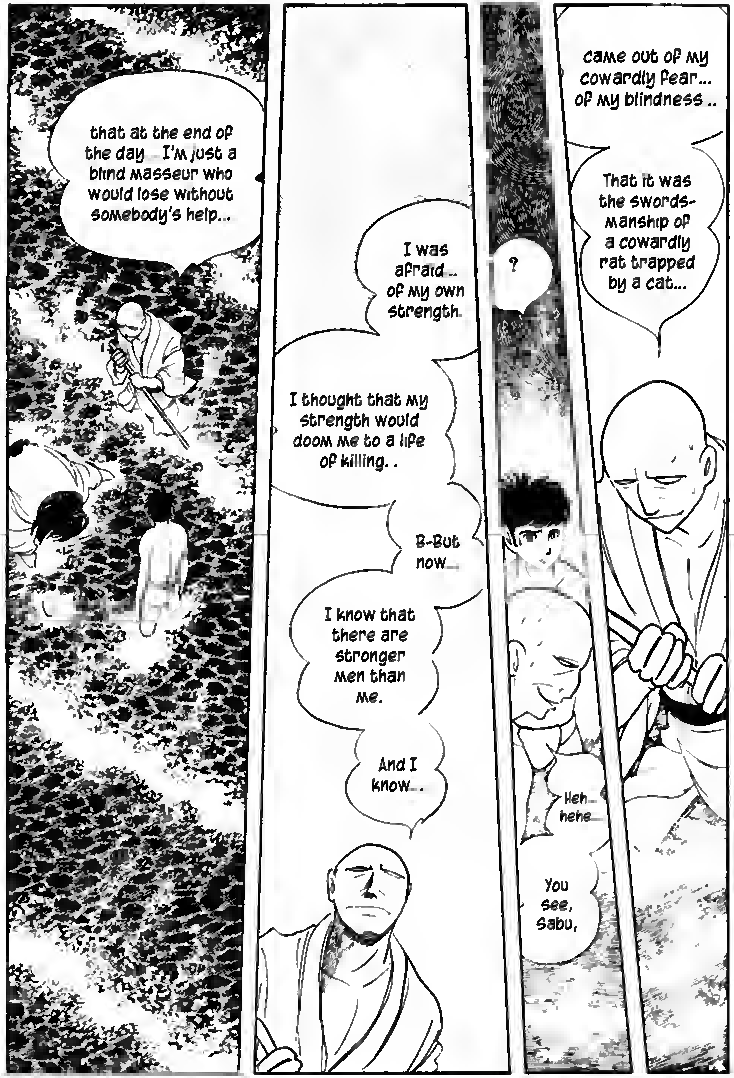


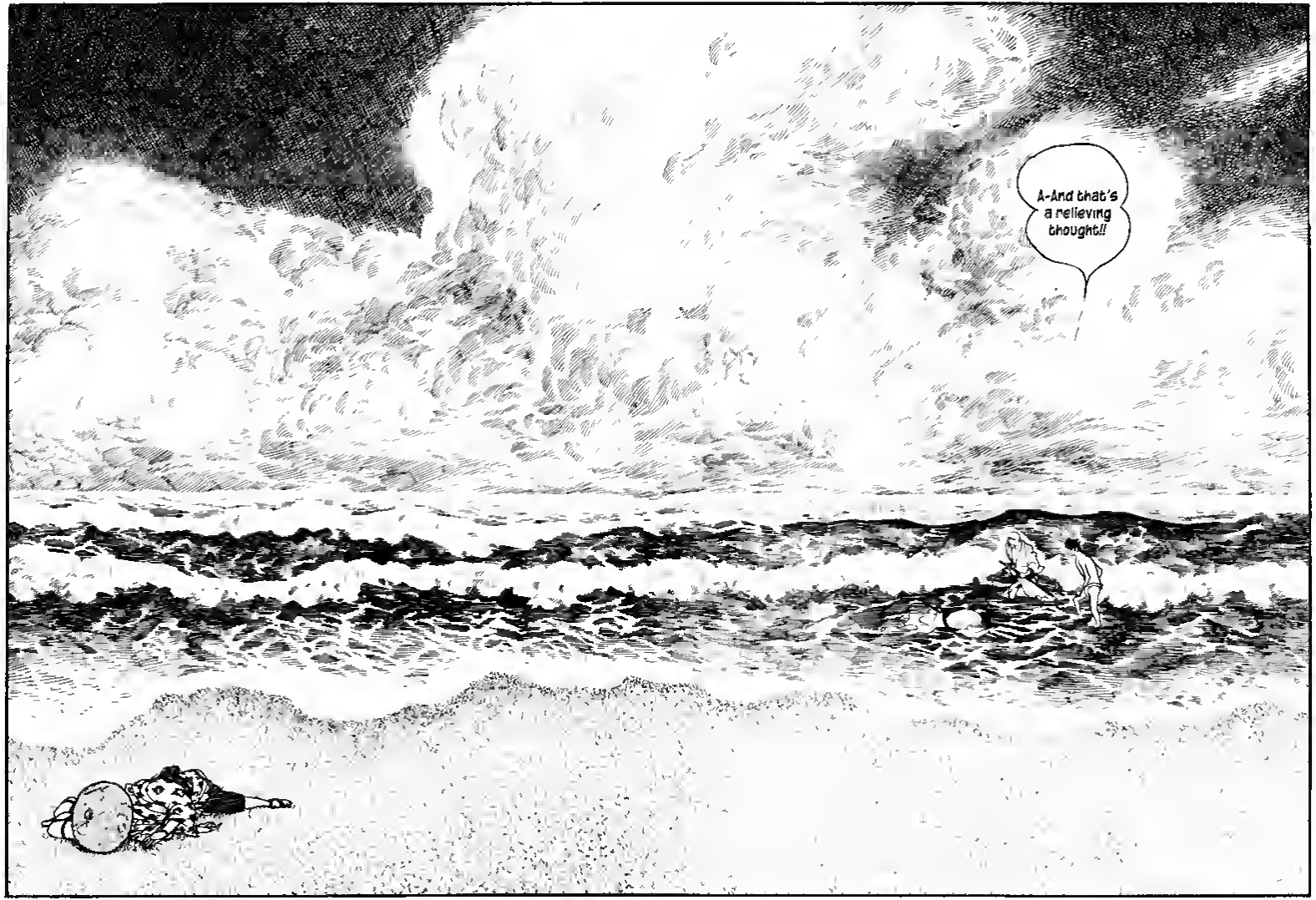
ヤ — ヤ — ヤ —
ヒュッ
ヒュッ
Heh hehe..
It seems you're just as great as they say!
I've .. been waiting for a man like you
I've faced off against many different kinds of foes,
but frankly speaking,
I found myself fed up with all of them!


Ever...
And it was not in vain!
was due to the slightest hope .. that this day would arrive!
I have lived till now
The only reason
This has been the only time... I have proved I was truly alive!!
Ever... since... I was born...
Ichi's gonna die!!
He's gonna die!

Oof!


I-It's alright Really
I thank you
N-Now I...
clearly under-stand
I guess that my swords-manship
I-Ichi !?
Aha... haha!
Ahaha-hahaha..
Heh... hehe...
I-I'm sorry I inter-fered like that.
B-But my hand just...
HuPP... HuPP... HuPP... HuPP.. HuPP
I.. Ichi!


that at the end of the day... I'm just a blind masseur who would lose without somebody's help...
I was afraid... of my own strength.
I thought that my strength would doom me to a life of killing..
B-But now...
I know that there are stronger men than me.
And I know...
?
came out of my cowardly fear... of my blindness..
That it was the swordsmanship of a cowardly rat trapped by a cat...
Heh... hehe...
You see, Sabu,


A-And that's a relieving thought!!

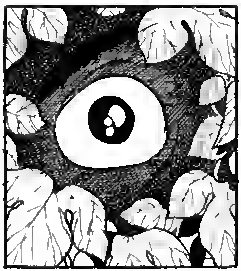
佐武と市捕物控

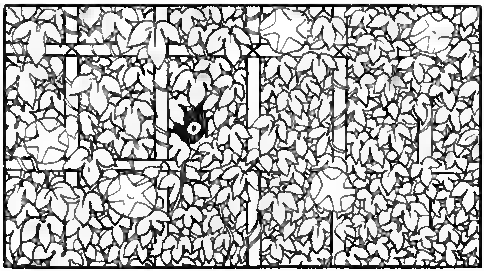
SABU & ICHI

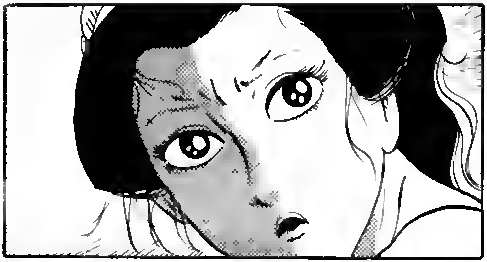
Chapter 18
presented by
Hokuto no gun
and
Happy scans

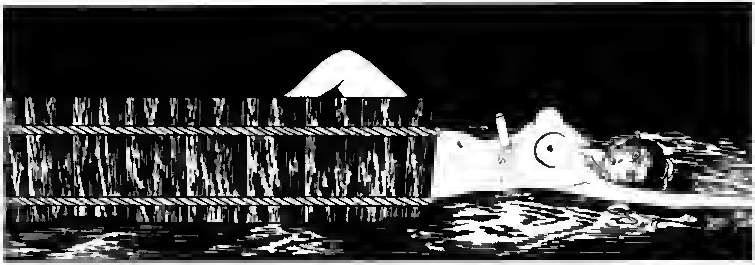
Translated by SystematicChaos
Cleaned by Wright
Typesetting by Kazuhiko

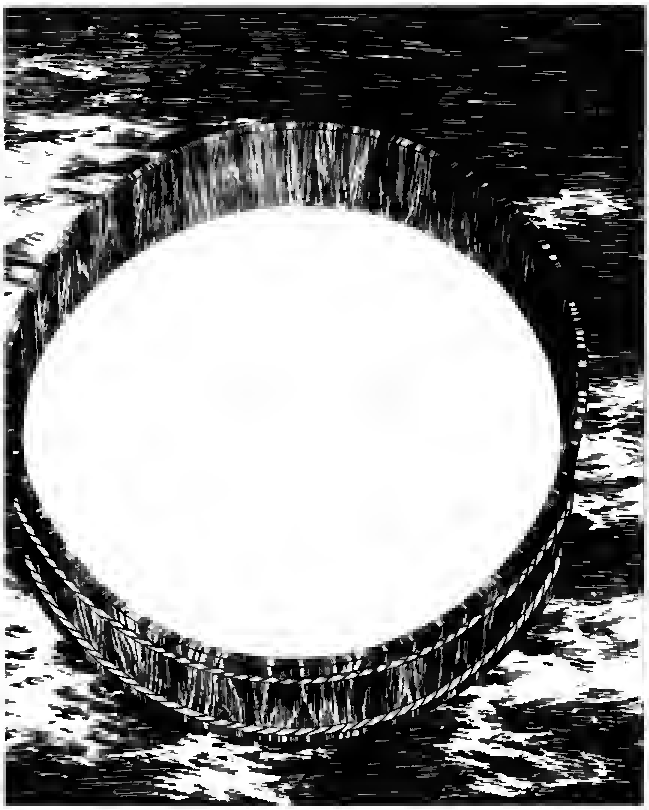
Chapter 19: Bathing

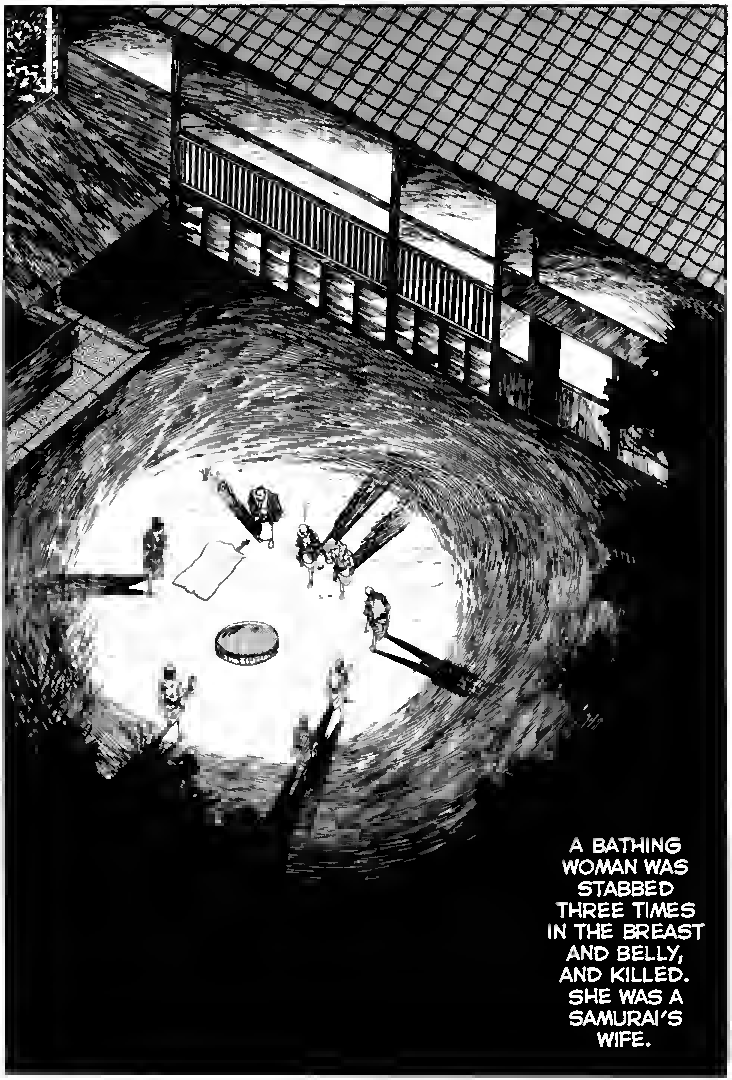




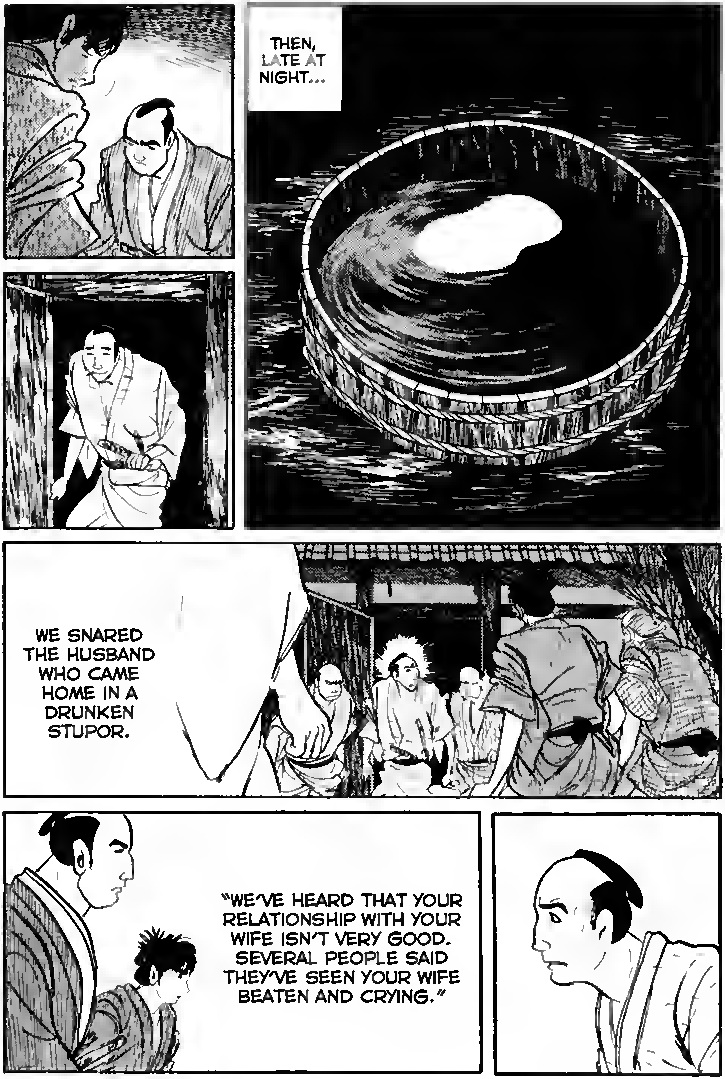




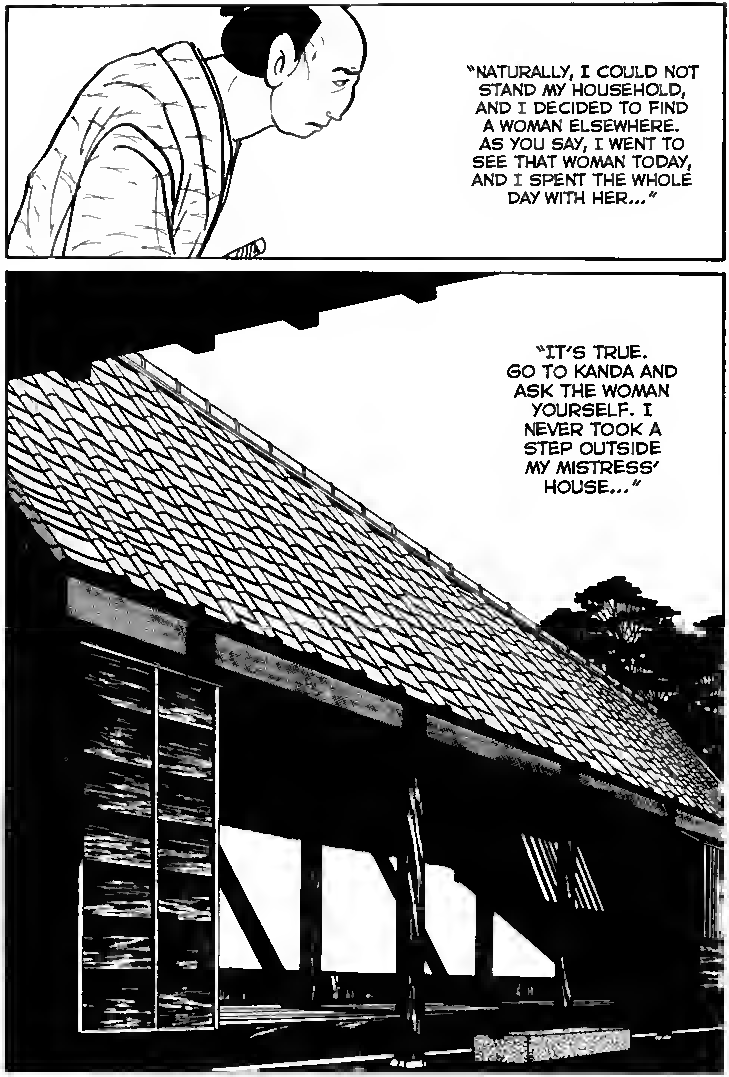


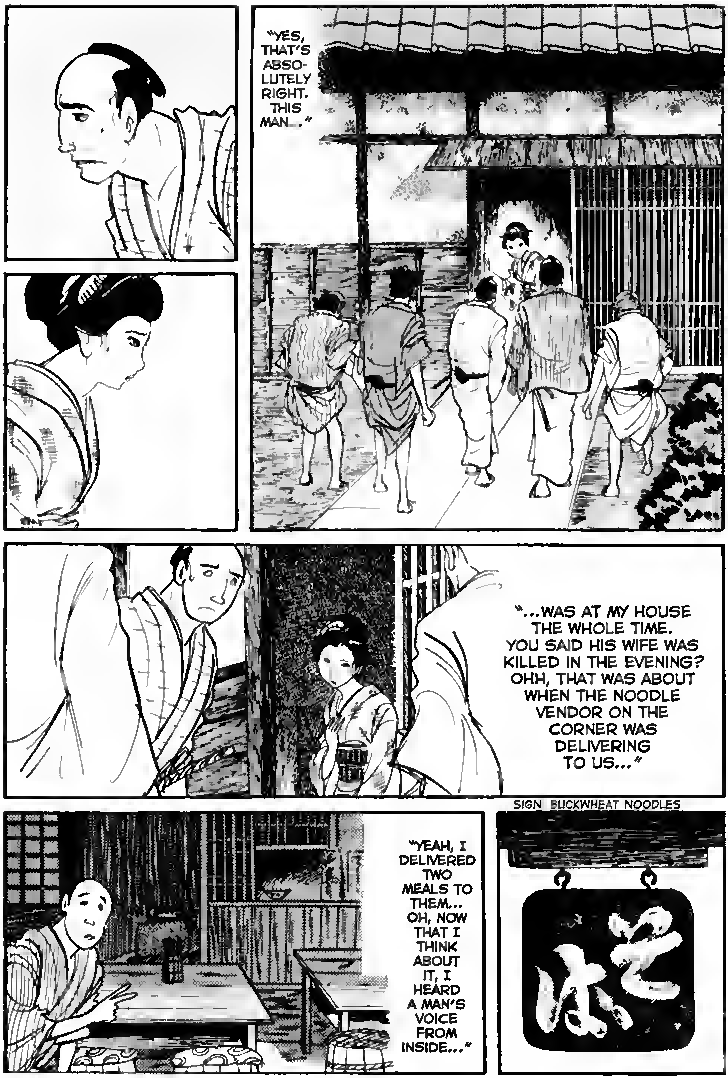

A BATHING WOMAN WAS STABBED THREE TIMES IN THE BREAST AND BELLY, AND KILLED. SHE WAS A SAMURAI'S WIFE.

THE MURDERED WOMAN'S NAME WAS SEI. HER HUSBAND WAS MISAKI YOMOJI, A FOOT SOLDIER OF URI FIEF, AND THEY HAD NO CHILDREN. THE MURDER OCCURRED WHILE HER HUSBAND WAS AWAY.
"THIS CASE'LL BE SOLVED QUICKLY"... THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT HALF AN HOUR LATER, WHEN I HAD FINISHED QUESTIONING THE NEIGHBORS.
HAD ANYONE SEEN SOMEONE STANDING AROUND THE HOUSE WHEN IT HAPPENED ...?
WHAT WERE THE WIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCES? HOW WAS THEIR MARITAL RELATIONSHIP...?
WHERE WAS THE HUSBAND GOING...?

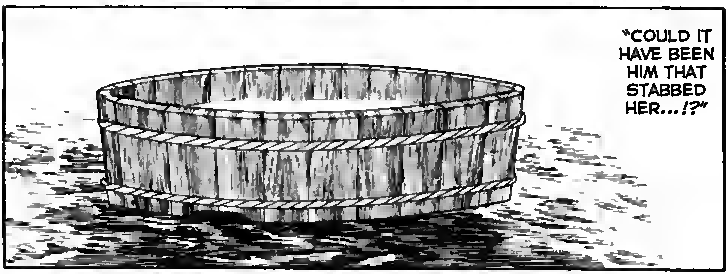

THEN, LATE AT NIGHT...
WE SNARED THE HUSBAND WHO CAME HOME IN A DRUNKEN STUPOR.
"WE'VE HEARD THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR WIFE ISN'T VERY GOOD. SEVERAL PEOPLE SAID THEY'VE SEEN YOUR WIFE BEATEN AND CRYING."

"DON'T TRY AND LIE TO US. A PALANQUIN-BEARER SAW YOU HEADING OVER THERE THIS MORNING."
"AND TODAY YOU WERE OFF TO SEE YOUR MISTRESS WHO LIVES NEAR KANDA, WEREN'T YOU?"
"AND... YOU ARE THE THIRDBORN OF THE MISAKI FAMILY. YOUR WIFE WAS THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE "FURINDO" OF ASAKUSA. NOW THAT HER FATHER AND MOTHER ARE DEAD, THE STORE'S IN THE HANDS OF THE HEAD CLERK... BUT IF YOUR WIFE WERE TO DIE, THEIR INHERITANCE WOULD FALL RIGHT INTO YOUR PURSE. THEN YOU COULD LIVE IN EASE AND COMFORT WITH YOUR MISTRESS!"
"T-THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION! I GUESS I CAN'T SAY... THAT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HER... WAS VERY GOOD. BUT THAT WAS BECAUSE SHE BOASTED ABOUT HER INHERITANCE AND IGNORED ME ALL THE TIME! I'M MERELY AN ADOPTED SON... OF A POOR FOOT SOLDIER..."


"NATURALLY, I COULD NOT STAND MY HOUSEHOLD, AND I DECIDED TO FIND A WOMAN ELSEWHERE. AS YOU SAY, I WENT TO SEE THAT WOMAN TODAY, AND I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY WITH HER..."
"IT'S TRUE. GO TO KANDA AND ASK THE WOMAN YOURSELF. I NEVER TOOK A STEP OUTSIDE MY MISTRESS' HOUSE..."

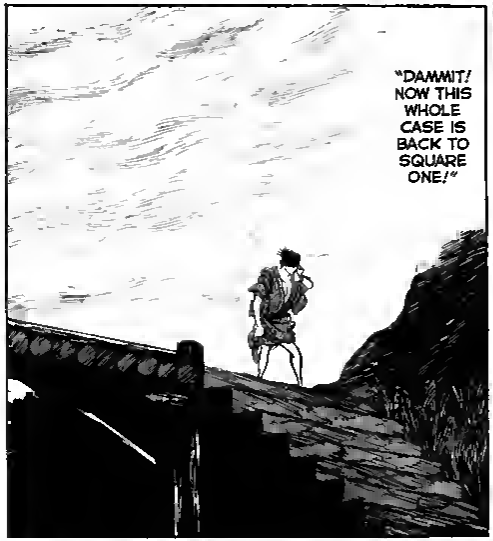

"YES, THAT'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. THIS MAN..."
"...WAS AT MY HOUSE THE WHOLE TIME. YOU SAID HIS WIFE WAS KILLED IN THE EVENING? OHH, THAT WAS ABOUT WHEN THE NOODLE VENDOR ON THE CORNER WAS DELIVERING TO US..."
"YEAH, I DELIVERED TWO MEALS TO THEM... OH, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HEARD A MAN'S VOICE FROM INSIDE..."
SIGN BUCKWHEAT NOODLES
そば

"OH, COME TO THINK OF IT... THE MAN'S VOICE REMINDED ME... TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO, SHE SAID SHE FELT LIKE SOMEONE WAS WATCHING HER WHILE SHE WAS BATHING!"

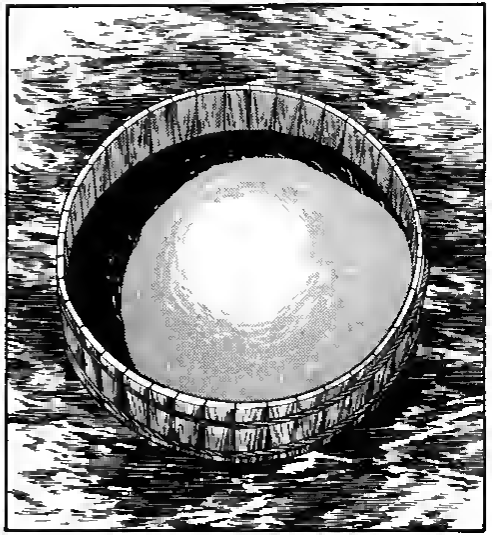

"COULD IT HAVE BEEN HIM THAT STABBED HER...!?"

"WELL IN THAT CASE, I SAW SOMEONE. THERE WAS SOME WEIRD SON OF A BITCH LOITERING AROUND THE BACK DOOR..."

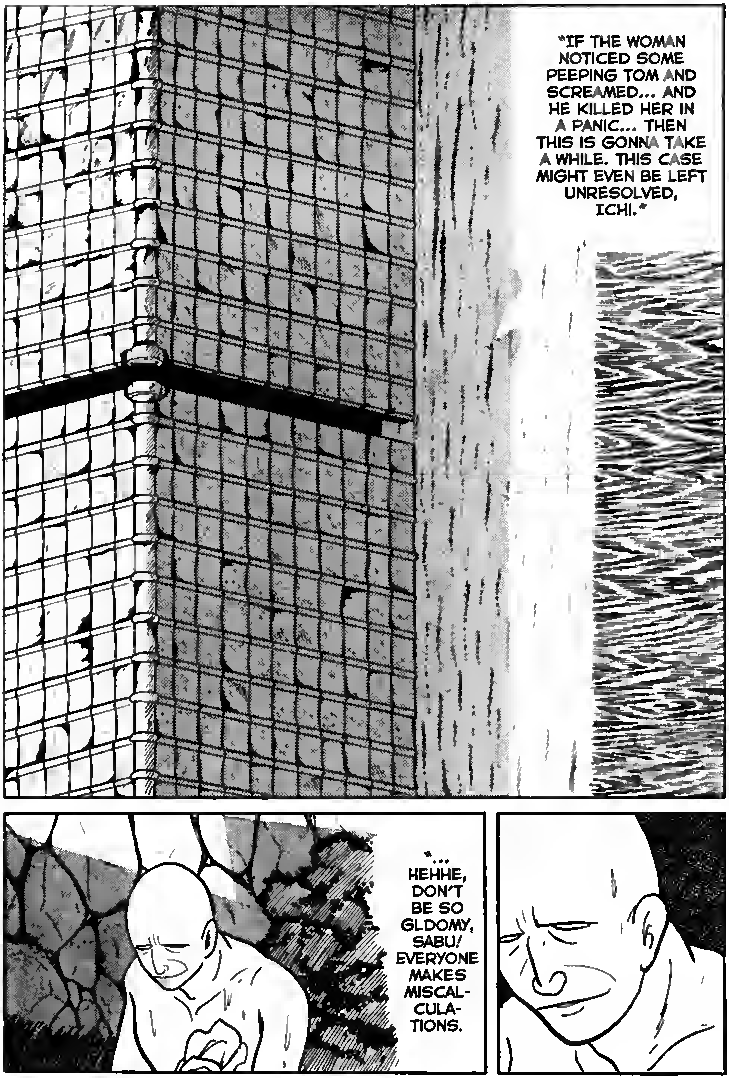
"I SAW HIM, TOO. I WAS A LITTLE BAFFLED, BECAUSE HE DEFINITELY WASN'T FROM AROUND HERE..."

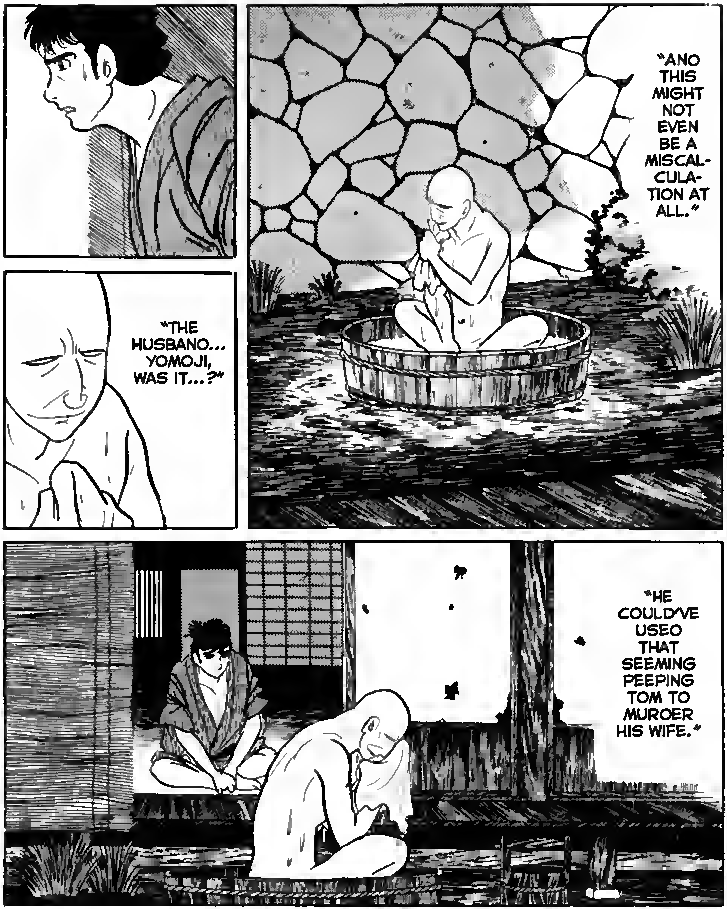

"DAMMIT! NOW THIS WHOLE CASE IS BACK TO SQUARE ONE!"

"WAS THERE REALLY NO ONE WHO SAW SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS LOITERING ABOUT? IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE YESTERDAY..."

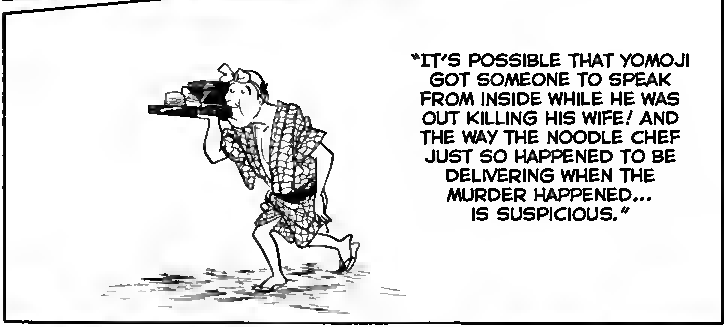


THE NEXT DAY, I DECIDED TO RECONSIDER THIS WHOLE CASE.

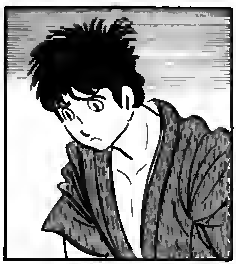

"IF THE WOMAN NOTICED SOME PEEPING TOM AND SCREAMED... AND HE KILLED HER IN A PANIC... THEN THIS IS GONNA TAKE A WHILE. THIS CASE MIGHT EVEN BE LEFT UNRESOLVED, ICHI."
"... HEHHE, DON'T BE SO GLOOMY, SABU! EVERYONE MAKES MISCALCULATIONS.

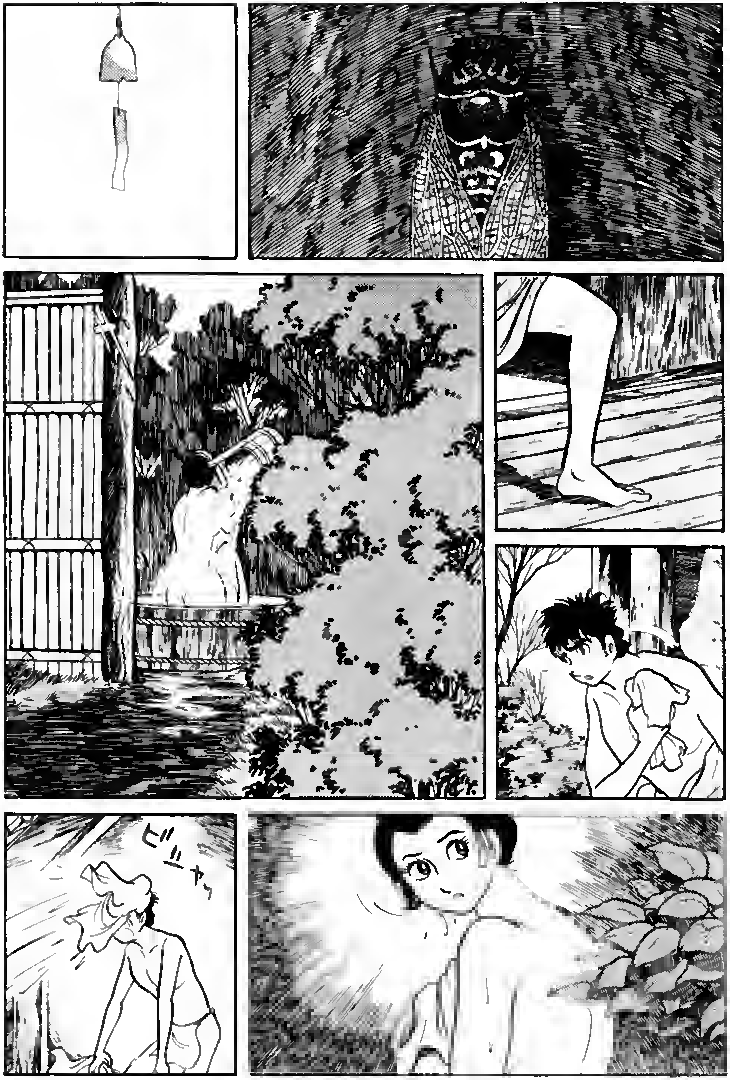

"ANO THIS MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A MISCAL-CULA-TION AT ALL."
"THE HUSBANO... YOMOJI, WAS IT...?"
"HE COULD'VE USED THAT SEEMING PEEPING TOM TO MURDER HIS WIFE."
"ANO... THE VOICE THE NOODLE CHEF HEARD... ALL ANYONE KNOWS IS THAT IT WAS A MAN'S VOICE."

"Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!"


"IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOMOJI GOT SOMEONE TO SPEAK FROM INSIDE WHILE HE WAS OUT KILLING HIS WIFE! AND THE WAY THE NOODLE CHEF JUST SO HAPPENED TO BE DELIVERING WHEN THE MURDER HAPPENED... IS SUSPICIOUS."

"...IT'S NO USE. EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, THE ONLY WAY TO PROVE IT... IS TO ARREST THAT PEEPING TOM...!"

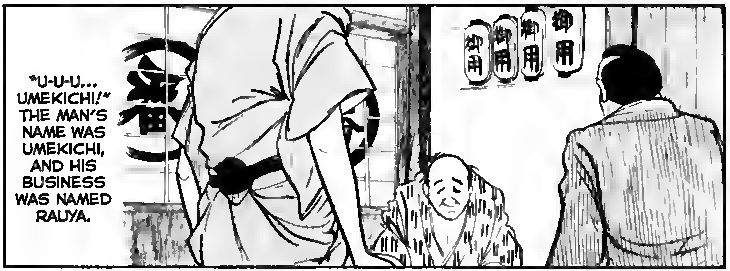


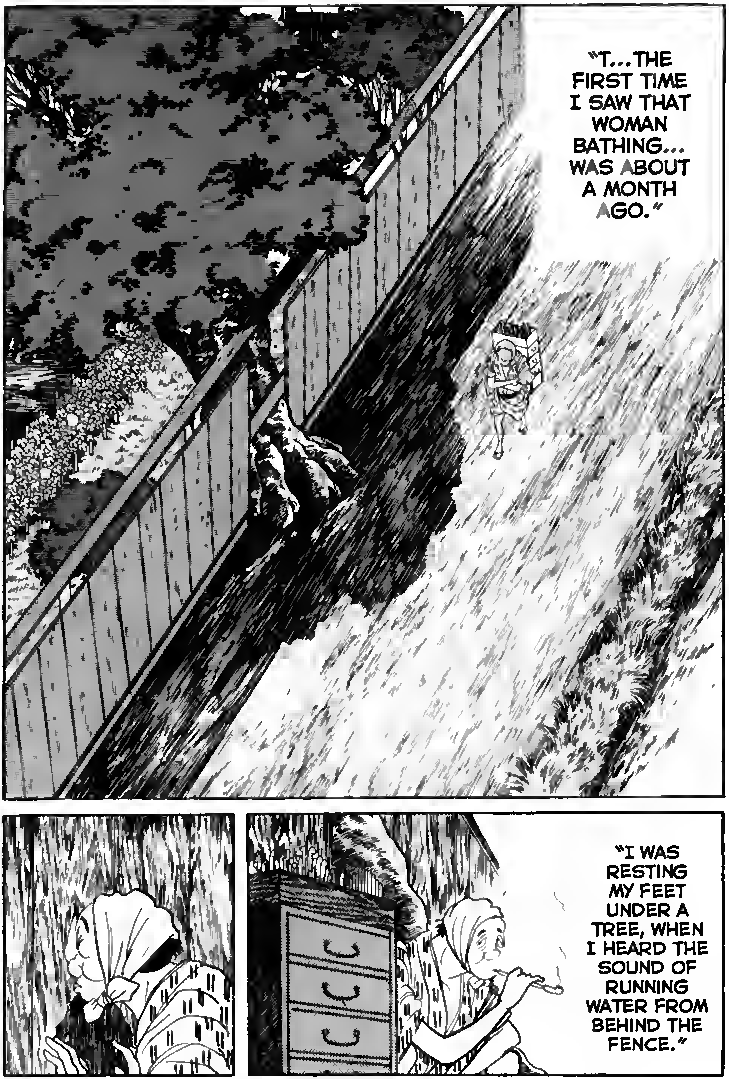

ヒュ〜ッ

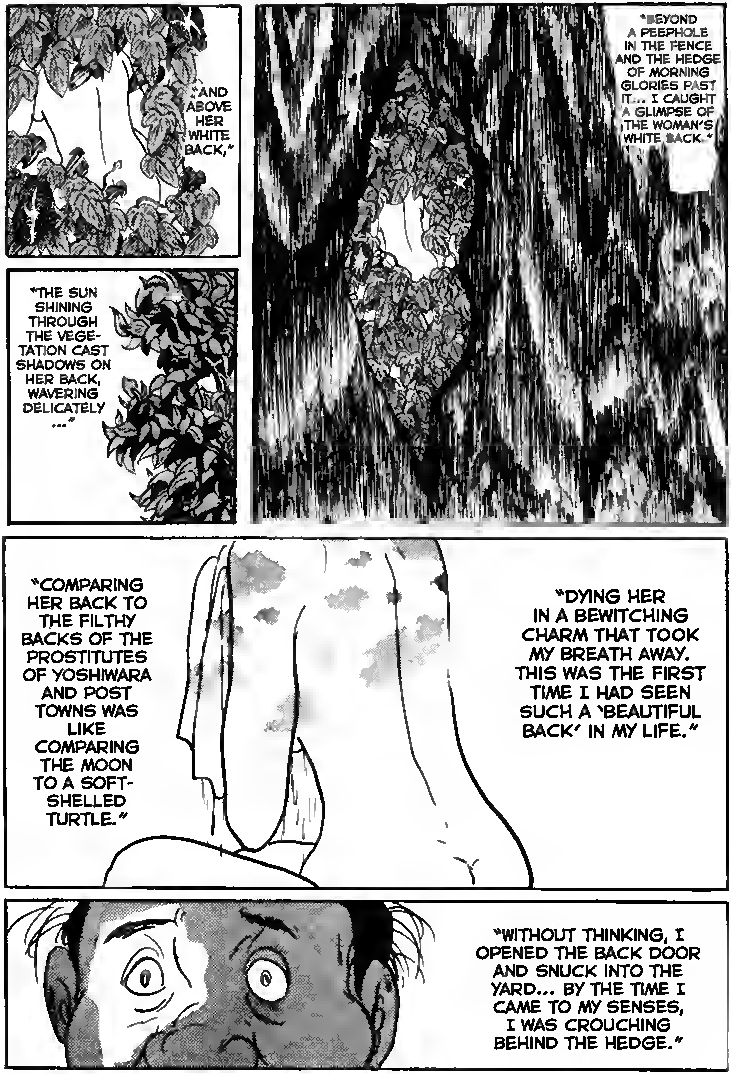
TWO OR
THREE DAYS
LATER...

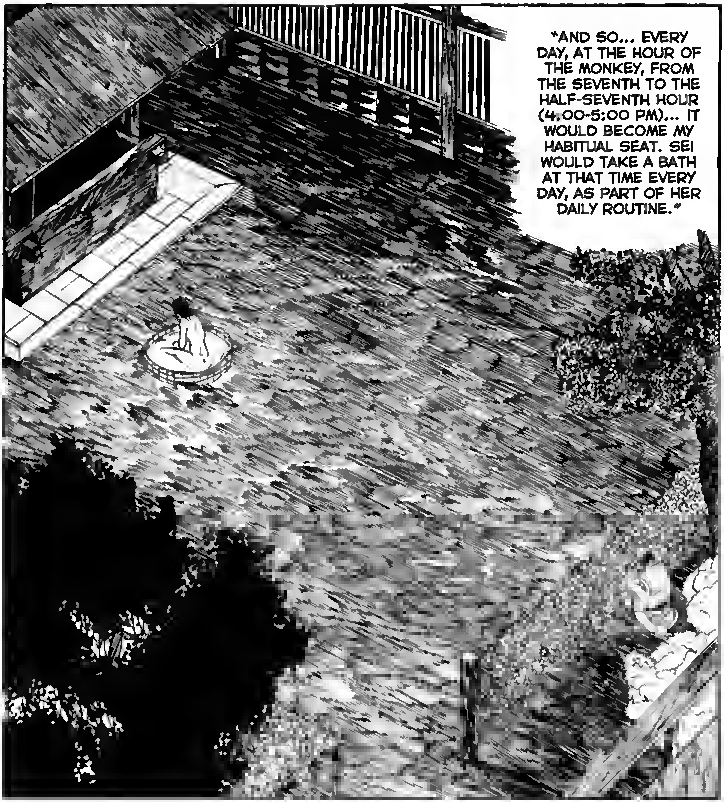
...THE PEEPING TOM SHOWED UP... AND TURNED HIMSELF IN...!

THEN THE CASE TOOK A SUDDEN TURN, AND THE CURTAIN FELL...
番

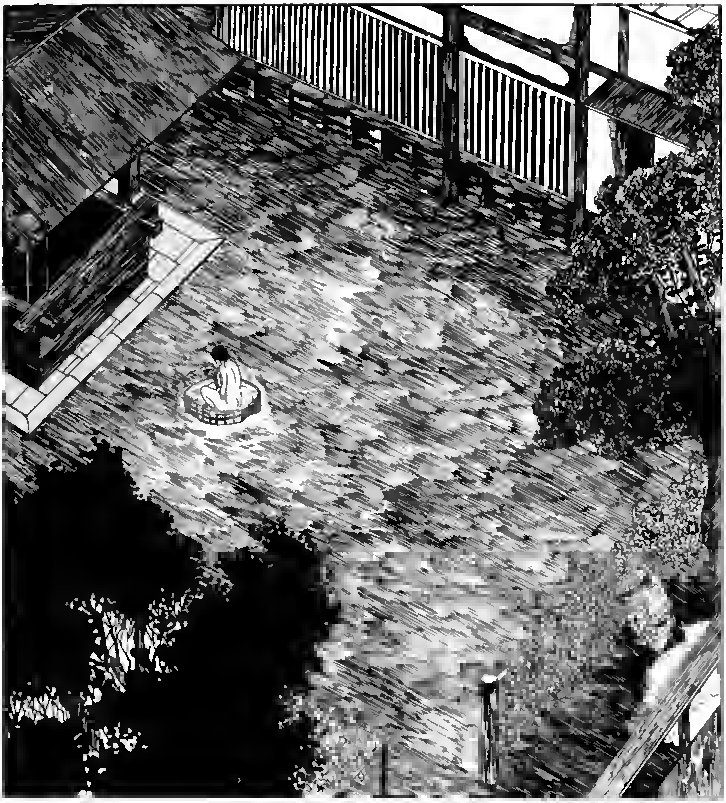

"U-U-U... UMEKICHI!" THE MAN'S NAME WAS UMEKICHI, AND HIS BUSINESS WAS NAMED RAUYA.
御用
御用
御用
御用
番

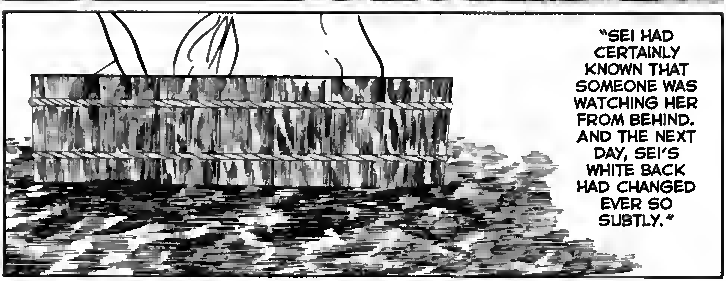

"T...THE FIRST TIME I SAW THAT WOMAN BATHING... WAS ABOUT A MONTH AGO."
"I WAS RESTING MY FEET UNDER A TREE, WHEN I HEARD THE SOUND OF RUNNING WATER FROM BEHIND THE FENCE."

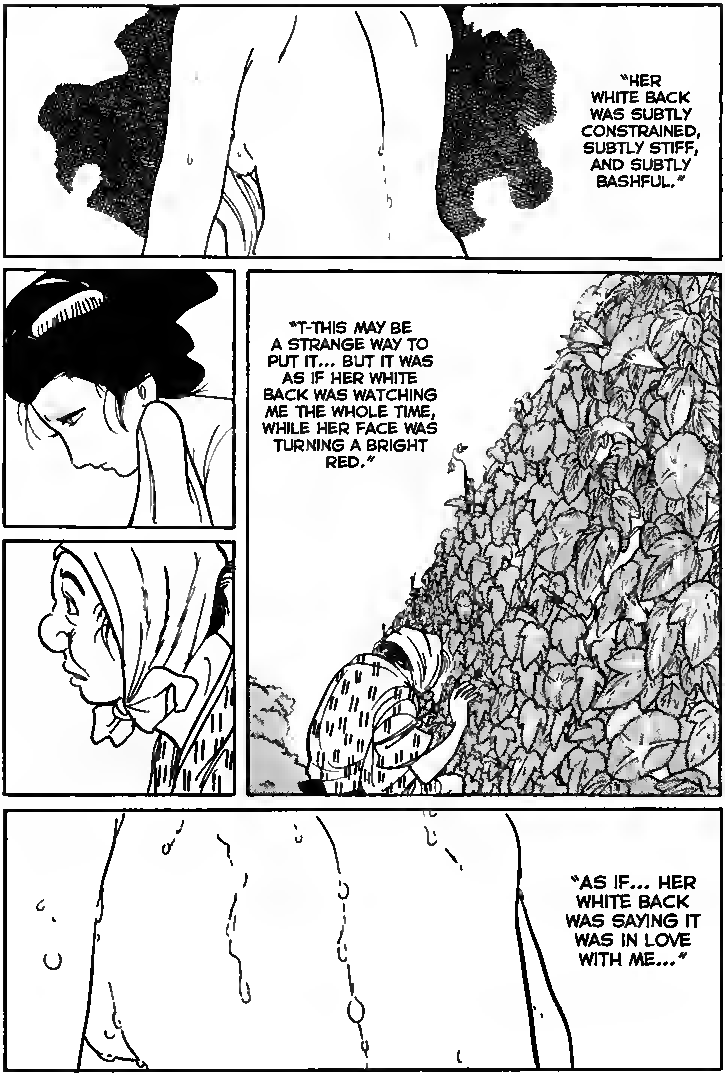

"AND ABOVE HER WHITE BACK,"
"BEYOND A PEEPHOLE IN THE FENCE AND THE HEDGE OF MORNING GLORIES PAST IT... I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE WOMAN'S WHITE BACK."
"THE SUN SHINING THROUGH THE VEGETATION CAST SHADOWS ON HER BACK, WAVERING DELICATELY ..."
"COMPARING HER BACK TO THE FILTHY BACKS OF THE PROSTITUTES OF YOSHIWARA AND POST TOWNS WAS LIKE COMPARING THE MOON TO A SOFT-SHELLED TURTLE."
"DYING HER IN A BEWITCHING CHARM THAT TOOK MY BREATH AWAY. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN SUCH A 'BEAUTIFUL BACK' IN MY LIFE."
"WITHOUT THINKING, I OPENED THE BACK DOOR AND SNUCK INTO THE YARD... BY THE TIME I CAME TO MY SENSES, I WAS CROUCHING BEHIND THE HEDGE."


"AND SO... EVERY DAY, AT THE HOUR OF THE MONKEY, FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE HALF-SEVENTH HOUR (4:00-5:00 PM)... IT WOULD BECOME MY HABITUAL SEAT. SEI WOULD TAKE A BATH AT THAT TIME EVERY DAY, AS PART OF HER DAILY ROUTINE."
"AND WHEN I CAME TO..."
"I CAME THE NEXT DAY, AND THE DAY AFTER THAT... EVEN WHEN IT RAINED, EVEN IF IT WAS AGAINST MY WILL, WHEN THAT HOUR CAME MY FEET WOULD TAKE ME TO THAT HOUSE."

"I HAD BEEN POSSESSED BY SEI'S WHITE BACK. I WAS IN LOVE..."
"I-I WOULD... BE LOOKING AT THE WOMAN'S BACK. AND IT WAS BEAUTIFUL. IT WAS AS IF I WAS GAZING UPON THE BACK OF THE GODDESS BENTEN."
"THEN ONE DAY..."
"I-I MADE A SOUND. BY THE TIME I TRIED TO STOP MYSELF... IT WAS TOO LATE. THE WOMAN NOTICED... YES, SHE DEFINITELY NOTICED..."
"...SEI HAD NOTICED THAT SOMEONE WAS WATCHING HER, AND SHE WAS ABOUT TO STAND UP, BUT THEN SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED. SEI SILENTLY LOWERED HER HIPS BACK DOWN INTO THE BASIN."

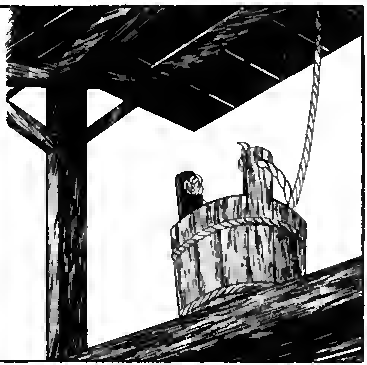



"SEI HAD CERTAINLY KNOWN THAT SOMEONE WAS WATCHING HER FROM BEHIND. AND THE NEXT DAY, SEI'S WHITE BACK HAD CHANGED EVER SO SUBTLY."

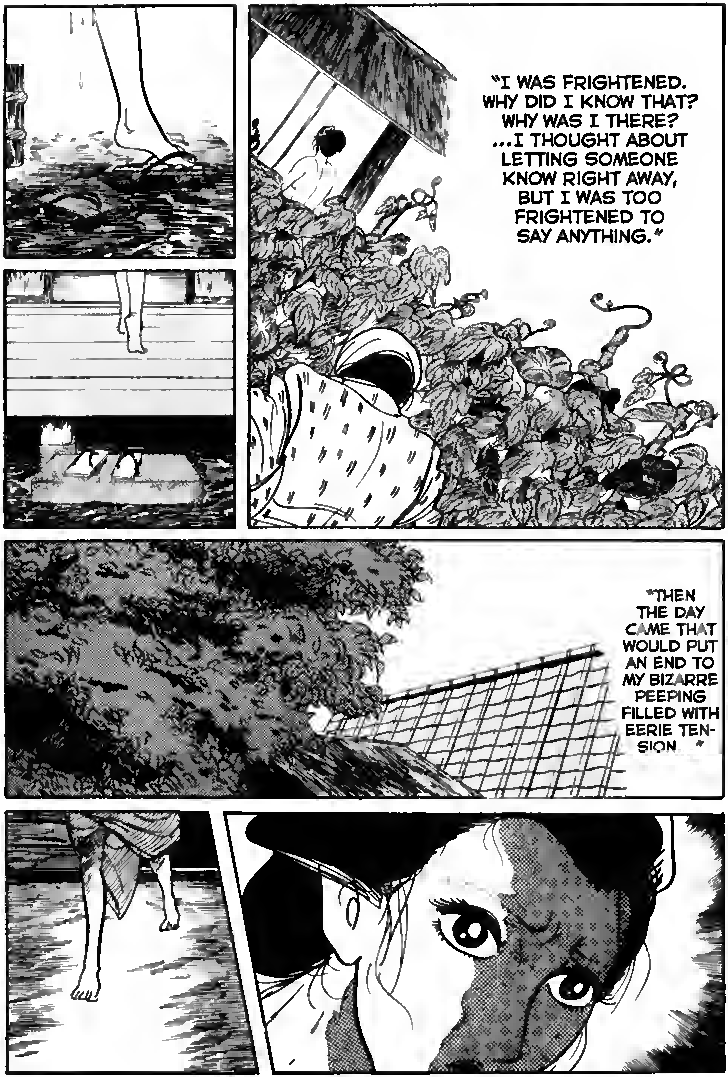

"HER WHITE BACK WAS SUBTLY CONSTRAINED, SUBTLY STIFF, AND SUBTLY BASHFUL."
"T-THIS MAY BE A STRANGE WAY TO PUT IT... BUT IT WAS AS IF HER WHITE BACK WAS WATCHING ME THE WHOLE TIME, WHILE HER FACE WAS TURNING A BRIGHT RED."
"AS IF... HER WHITE BACK WAS SAYING IT WAS IN LOVE WITH ME..."

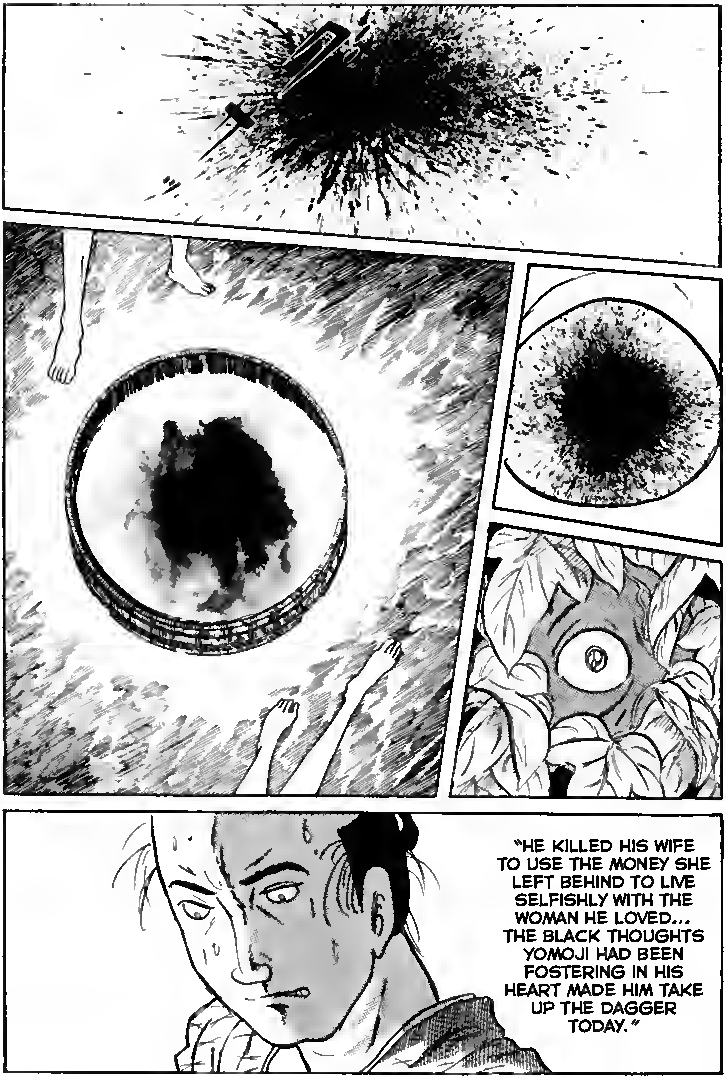
"THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS EXCHANGING PASSIONS WITH SEI BETWEEN MY EYES AND HER WHITE BACK. MY EYES RAVAGED SEI'S WHITE BACK, AND SEI'S WHITE BACK RAVAGED ME..."

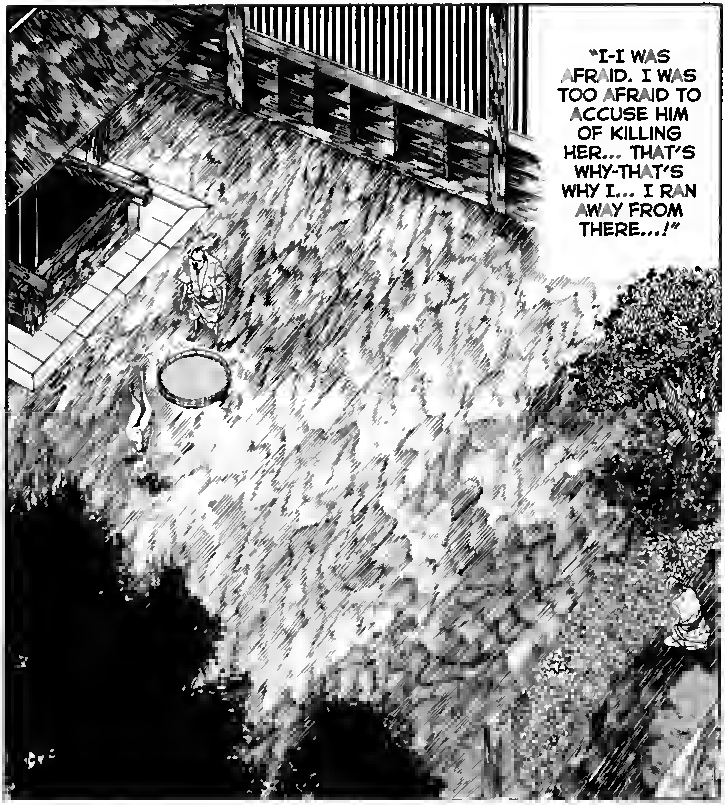
"TO SEI, THIS MAY HAVE BEEN JUST THE MOST RESISTANCE SHE COULD MUSTER AGAINST HER COLD AND CRUEL HUSBAND YOMOJI. SEI LIKED THE ACT OF BATHING, THE ACT OF REMOVING ONE'S CLOTHES AND FLOATING ONE'S NAKED BODY IN THE COLD WATER (IT WAS PART OF HER DAILY ROUTINE), BECAUSE IT MEANT LIBERATION FROM THE SHACKLES OF THE OPPRESSIVE, DESOLATE, SOLITARY PRISON CALLED HER "HOUSE". AND BY EXTENSION, SEI'S WHITE BACK WAS RAVAGED BY A PEEPING MAN WHOSE FACE AND NAME SHE DID NOT KNOW..."

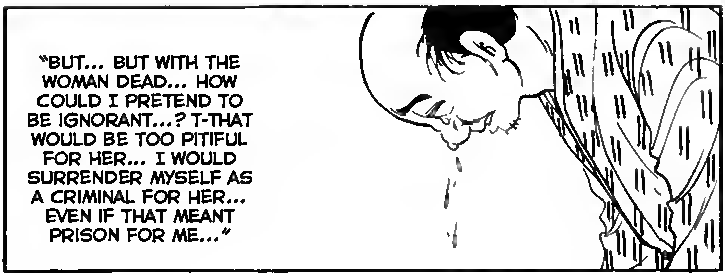


"...SEI WAS SUFFERING FROM HER HUSBAND YOMOJI'S REASONLESS PREJUDICE. YOMOJI, WHO HAD MARRIED TO THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF A LARGE BUSINESS WITH A GREAT INHERITANCE, MAINTAINED HIS SAMURAI NATURE ONLY IN HIS PRIDE. SEI'S QUIET, CALM BEAUTY WHICH SOMETIMES EVEN SEEMED COLD ONLY SERVED TO FUEL THE FIRE OF YOMOJI'S PREJUDICE. SO HE FOUND A MISTRESS AND SPENT DAYS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE..."


"I WAS FRIGHTENED. WHY DID I KNOW THAT? WHY WAS I THERE? ...I THOUGHT ABOUT LETTING SOMEONE KNOW RIGHT AWAY, BUT I WAS TOO FRIGHTENED TO SAY ANYTHING."
"THEN THE DAY CAME THAT WOULD PUT AN END TO MY BIZARRE PEEPING FILLED WITH EERIE TENSION."


"HE KILLED HIS WIFE TO USE THE MONEY SHE LEFT BEHIND TO LIVE SELFISHLY WITH THE WOMAN HE LOVED... THE BLACK THOUGHTS YOMOJI HAD BEEN FOSTERING IN HIS HEART MADE HIM TAKE UP THE DAGGER TODAY."


"I-I WAS AFRAID. I WAS TOO AFRAID TO ACCUSE HIM OF KILLING HER... THAT'S WHY-THAT'S WHY I... I RAN AWAY FROM THERE...!"


"BUT... BUT WITH THE WOMAN DEAD... HOW COULD I PRETEND TO BE IGNORANT...? T-THAT WOULD BE TOO PITIFUL FOR HER... I WOULD SURRENDER MYSELF AS A CRIMINAL FOR HER... EVEN IF THAT MEANT PRISON FOR ME..."

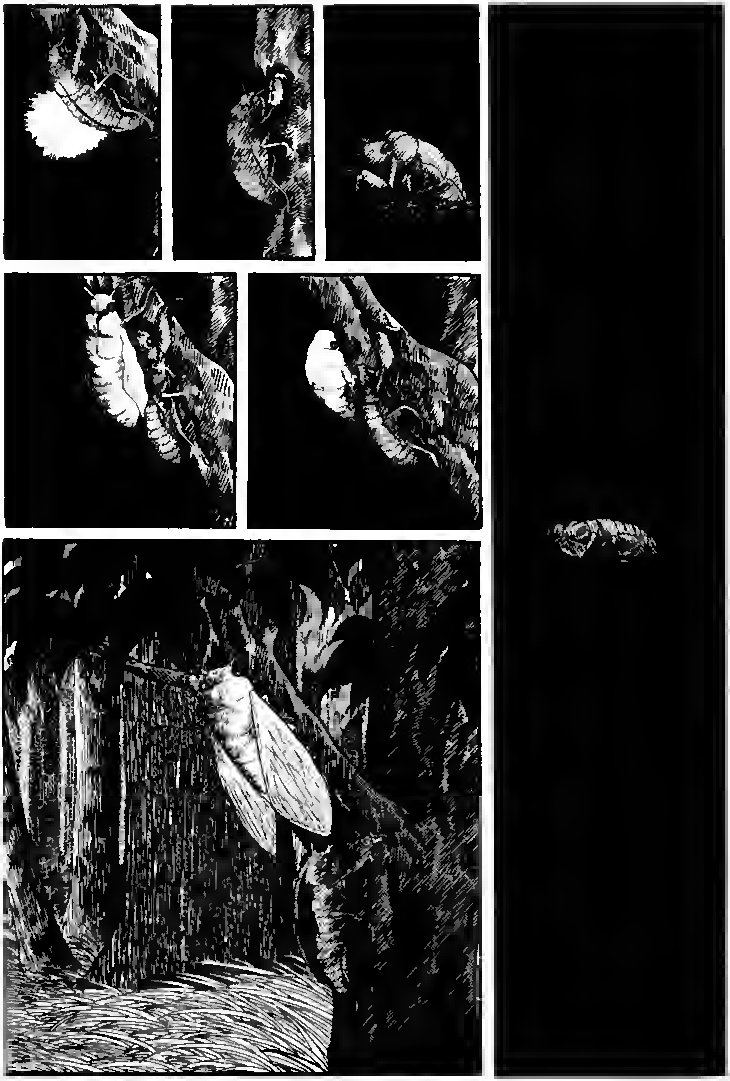
佐武と市捕物控

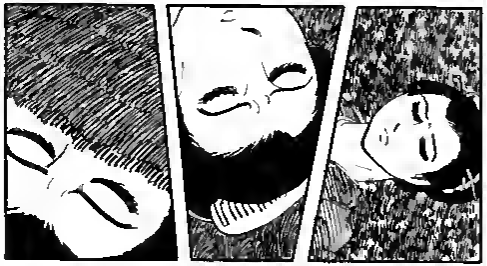
SABU & ICHI

Chapter 19
presented by
Hokuto no gun
and
Happy scans

Translated by SystematicChaos
Cleaned by Wright
Typesetting by Kazuhiko

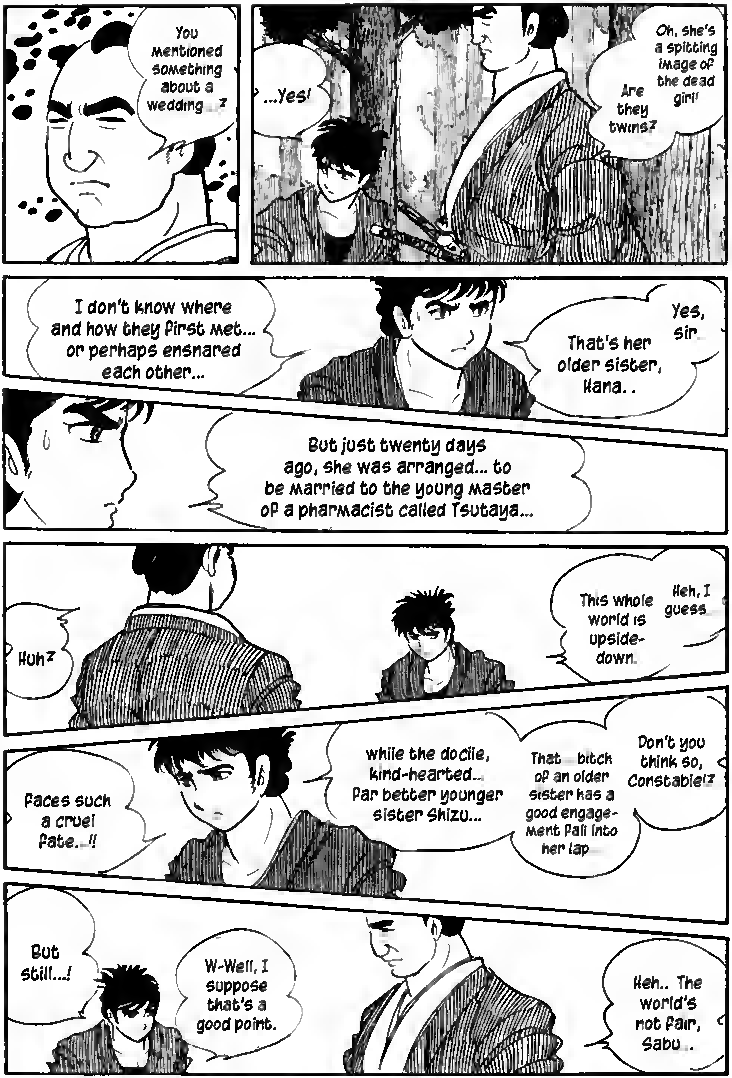
Chapter 20: Chirping Cicadas





...Sob...
T-This is her...
There's no question.
Her sister, Shizu!
What would Shizu...
...got...
have been doing here last night?
A-And that became the cause... of this disaster!
I sent something with her... to an acquaintance's house...
R-Right.
Was this... what you had sent with her?
B-But I could not go in my condition...
T-This would never have happened if I had went...
...Which means...
by doing needle-work...
Shizu supported our livelihoods...
Y-Yes.
that Shizu had stopped by here before she was making the delivery...

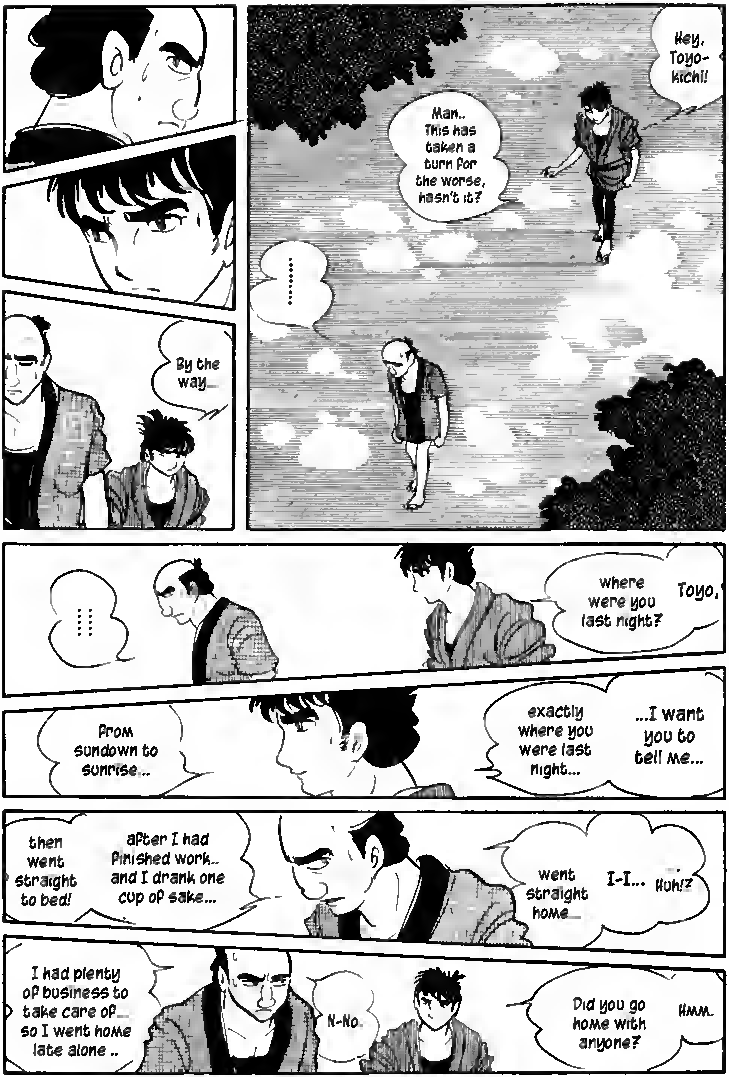
...Sob...
I'm sorry this had to happen...
Kana
so close to the day...
of your auspicious wedding ceremony


You mentioned something about a wedding...?
...Yes!
Are they twins?
Oh, she's a spitting image of the dead girl!
I don't know where and how they first met... or perhaps ensnared each other...
That's her older sister, Kana..
Yes, sir
But just twenty days ago, she was arranged... to be married to the young master of a pharmacist called Tsutaya...
Huh?
This whole world is upside-down.
Heh, I guess
Faces such a cruel fate...!!
while the docile, kind-hearted... Par better younger sister Shizu...
That bitch of an older sister has a good engagement Pall into her lap
Don't you think so, Constable!?
But still...!
W-Well, I suppose that's a good point.
Heh.. The world's not fair, Sabu..

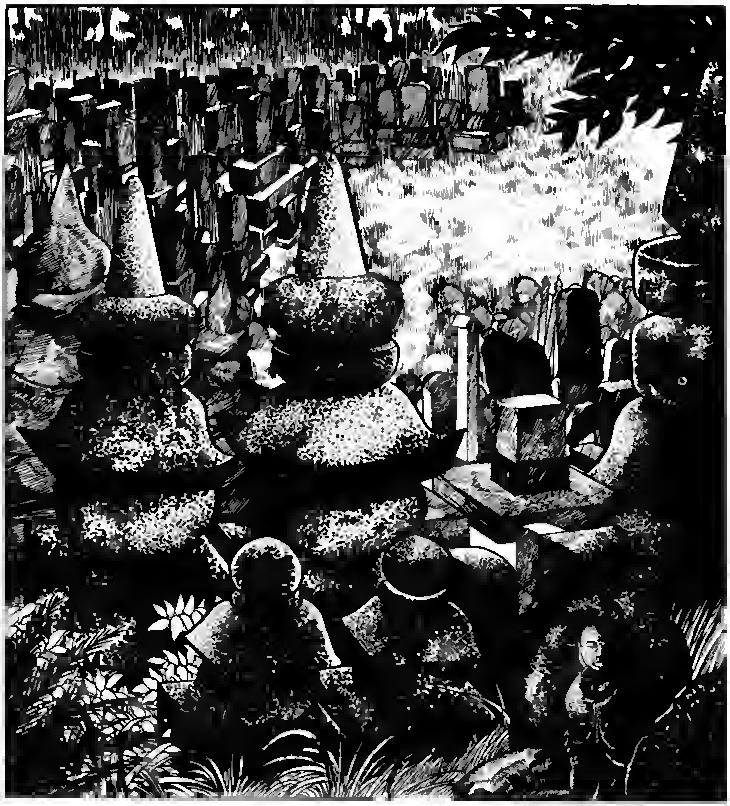
and I knew her well, too...
Midori was on fairly good terms with Shizu...
I-I wouldn't...
O-O-O-OF course not, Constable!
I'd say you've fallen for this corpse here!
If I didn't know better, Sabo...
Keh-he...
Wait! Wait!
Who are you?
S-Shizu!
Shizu's.
Hmm!?
That's the man... who fell for Shizu..
Con-stable,

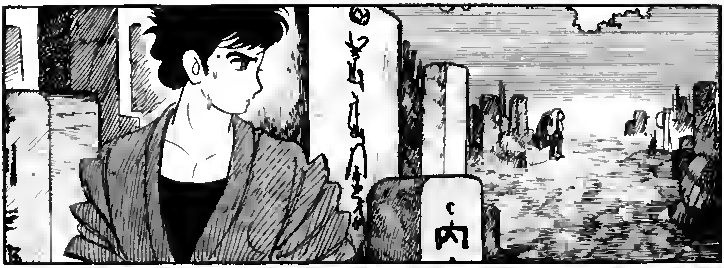
I hear he's become a competent and skilled foreman now...
an apprentice of Shizu's father, while he was still in good health ..
...He used to be...
His name's Toyokichi
Yes.
Alright, let him in.
Hmm, a carpenter, eh?
.....
Huh!?
キョトキョト
...Huh!?
...have you had enough?
Toyokichi,

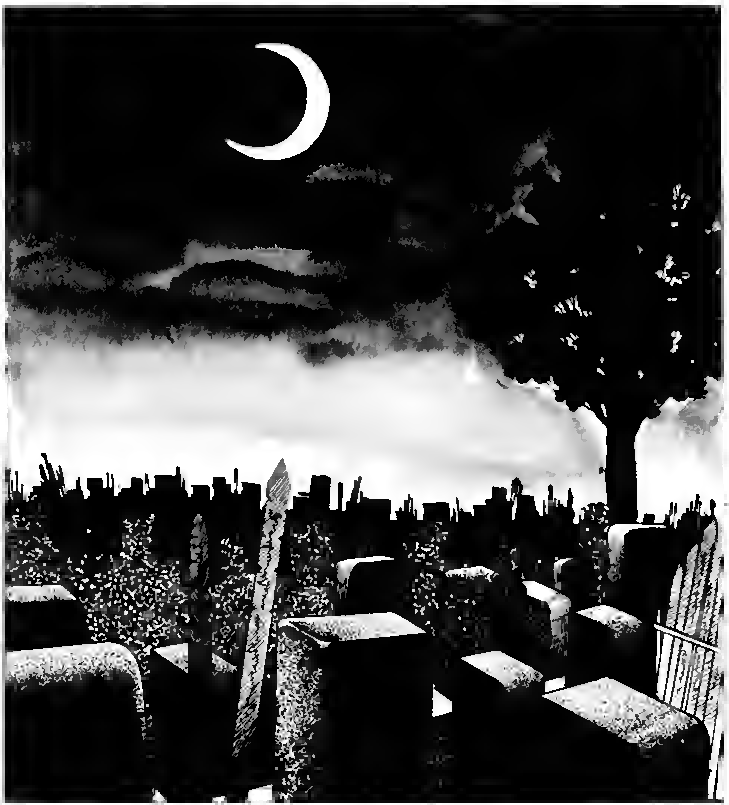
y..
yes
ヒクッ
……
that man..
Gabu.
……
that some-thing's off about him
I can't help but think
So you think so, too, Con-stabia?

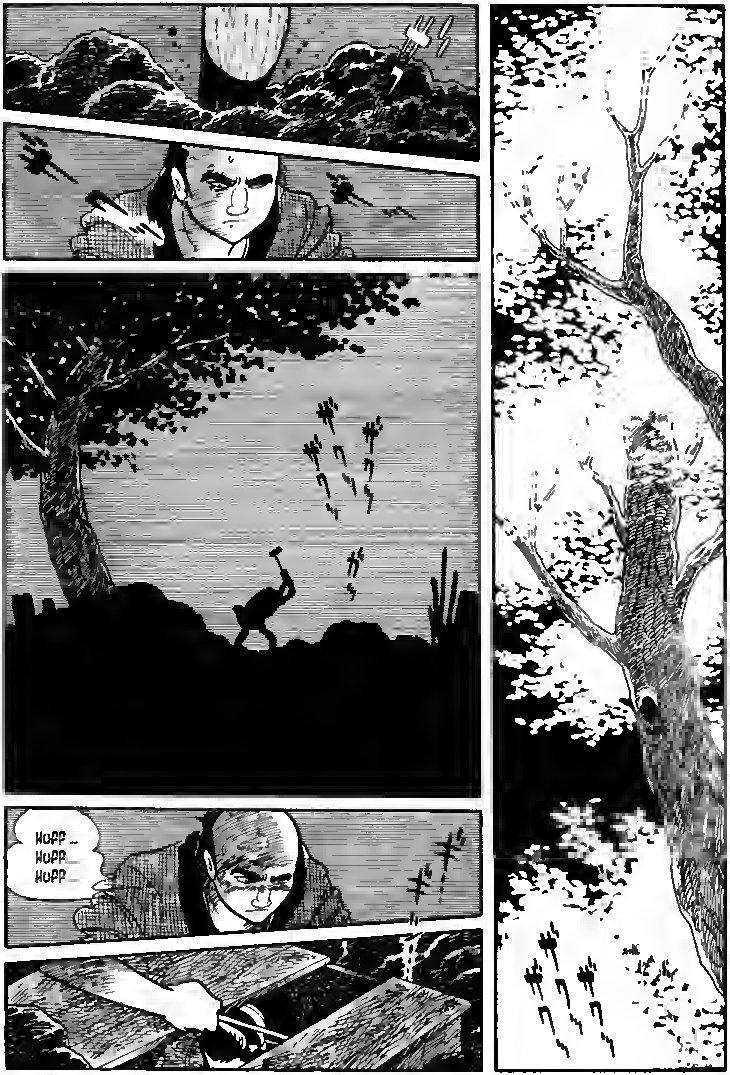

Hey, Toyo-kichi!
Man.. This has taken a turn for the worse, hasn't it?
.....
By the way...
Where were you last night?
Toyo.
.....
From sundown to sunrise...
exactly where you were last night...
...I want you to tell me...
then went straight to bed!
after I had finished work... and I drank one cup of sake...
went straight home...
I-I...
Huh!?
I had plenty of business to take care of... so I went home late alone..
N-No.
Did you go home with anyone?
Hmm.

And when you came home...?
I-I was alone, of course
I'M... a bachelor!
W-What are you accusing me of..!?
Oh... nothing. It's fine.
Don't take any offense.
This is just my job
Well then..
Don't get too discouraged
.....
.....




ぐるぐるぐるぐる
内




HUFF…
HUFF…
HUFF…

Waah...
So you were the one who killed Shizu!!
No!!
N.. N- No ..!!
Hold it!
Toyokichi, what are you...!?
Huh!?

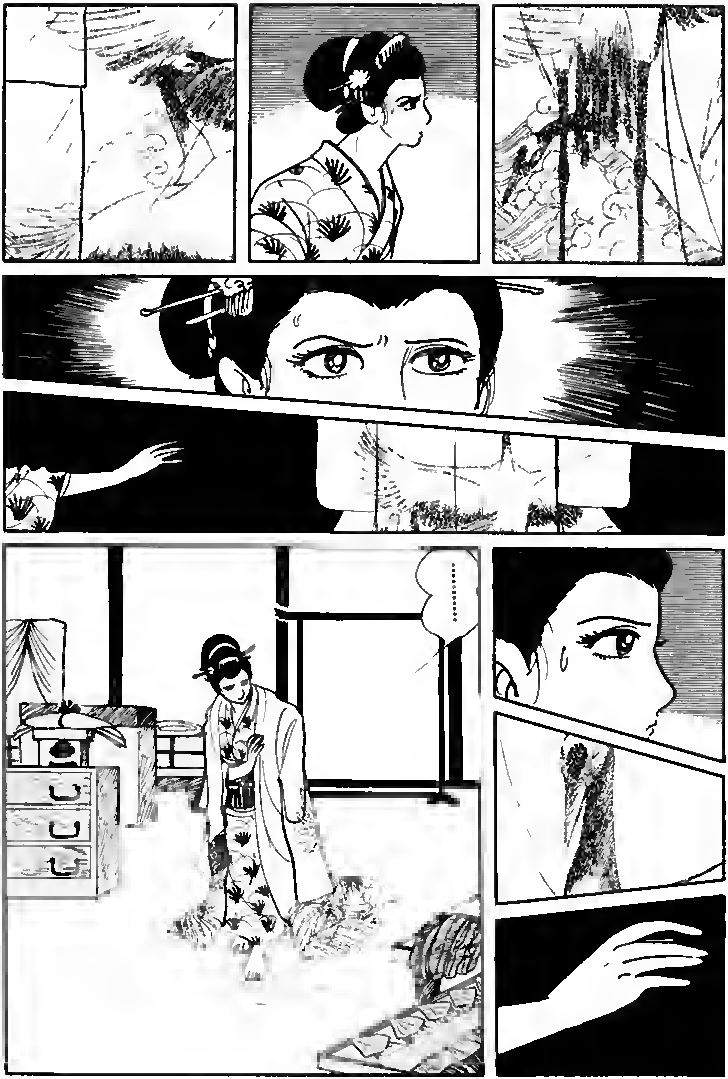
I-Let me go!
You got it all wrong!
I-It wasn't me!
I_I just wanted to c-confirm...
T-That corpse.. That isn't Shizu!!
What!?
I guess you're all out of excuses...
You think anyone would believe that...?
Tch, you dirty bastard!
That's the elder sister... Hana!!
I'm sure of it!
I-I'm not lying!

Right by where Shizu died!
And someone saw you and Shizu together at sunset...
You came home late at night...
That day...
Don't try and act innocent on me... I already have evidence against you!
Kch, you're still going on about that...?
After that, I had a drink before going home — to compose myself...
But... We parted soon after...
That day... I... did meet with Shizu.
Y-You're right...
N-No!
So did killing her hurt your conscience!?
To compose yourself?
I-I told Shizu... that I want her to marry me as soon as possible!
...That's not it!
No...
...I told her I'd take care of her father as well...
And with her elder sister's engagement settled .. she can't...
She can't leave her father alone ..!!
I-I had told her that several times before..
But her answer was always the same..

B-But Shizu...
Such... Such a good girl!
Shizu was... such a good girl!
S-So why wouldn't Shizu...!?
T-That's why I...
W... Waaa-aaah...

.....
Here
Just try it on...
Al-right?
.....
Look.
This bridal robe...
Most average girls would do anything to wear something as good as this!
I must say, I expected no less of a big store like Tsutaya
..Well, what do you think?
On top of that... They've arranged everything for us...

...Now, hurry...
F... Father!!
Sob...
.....
Y-Yes, you're right.
Well, it'll be fine.
You'll... get used to it...!!

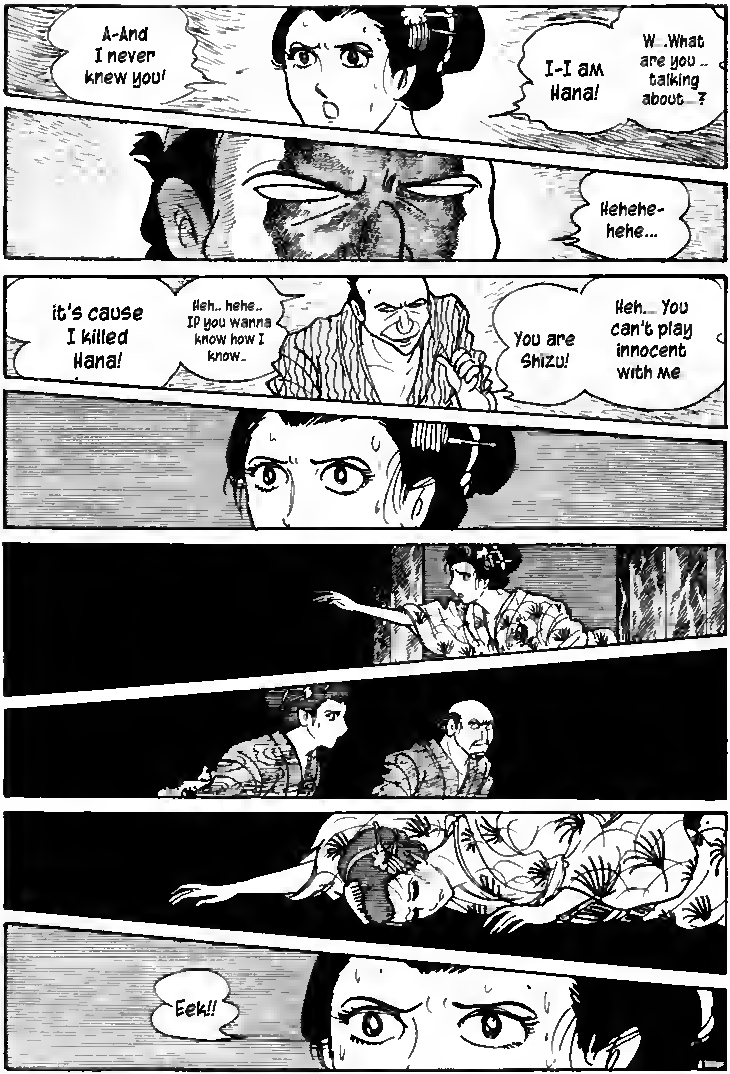


H-Hey, you...
Sabu..
The thief-taker... says he has something to ask of you..
Well then, Hana.
are you actually Shizu...
...No, you are definitely Shizu..
At least that's what Toyokichi won't stop saying!

T-That son of a... Why would he say that...!?
H-How could he ever ..
T-That's nonsense!
want to hear the answer straight out of Hana's mouth...!
I'm sorry, but I
Father,
Toyokichi will be executed tomorrow!
Based on how you respond,
Tell me the truth!
...Hana!
..He's wrong!
I am.. the elder sister.

I am Hana!!

_Heh... hehe...
Who... are you!?
W-Who's there!?
But I was real close friends with your sister.
Since you never met me before.
Guess I can't blame you, Shizu.
You don't remember me!
Heh... I knew it.
Y- You're...
Huh!?
In fact,
But it doesn't matter to me which one you are.
I guess it's Hana now..!
Whoops,
Shizu...
Heh... Hehe-he...
You'll have to send plenty of those golden treasures my way!
Cause after you... are wed into Tsutaya...
...it's better for me if you stay as Hana...


A-And I never knew you!
I-I am Hana!
W...What are you talking about...?
Hehehe-hehe...
it's cause I killed Hana!
Heh.. hehe.. IP you wanna know how I know..
You are Shizu!
Heh... You can't play innocent with me
Eek!!

Kch,
don't you dare scream
That bitch...
.....
got so intimate with the young Master of Tsutaya... then suddenly brought up separation
That's why... I... hehehe...
But .
Thanks to that,
you can disguise yourself as Hana,
and live the rest of your life in comfort. Heha

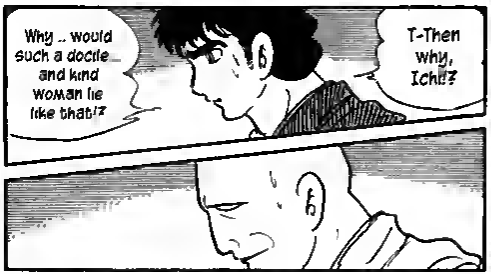
...Well, why don't we stick together, like villains of a same stripe?
If... you say you don't want to..
I'll sneak into Tsutaya..
and do this and that to you
Wait!
Tch, you bitch!
..Aiee-eee!
Huh?
Oh, shit!

Gyah!
.....
So you were Shizu after all!
...Shizu!
W-What the hell!?
It was Shizu that was killed!
I am... Kana!
Y-You're wrong
Shizu, why would you do such a thing..!?
I heard everything from the shadows!
.....

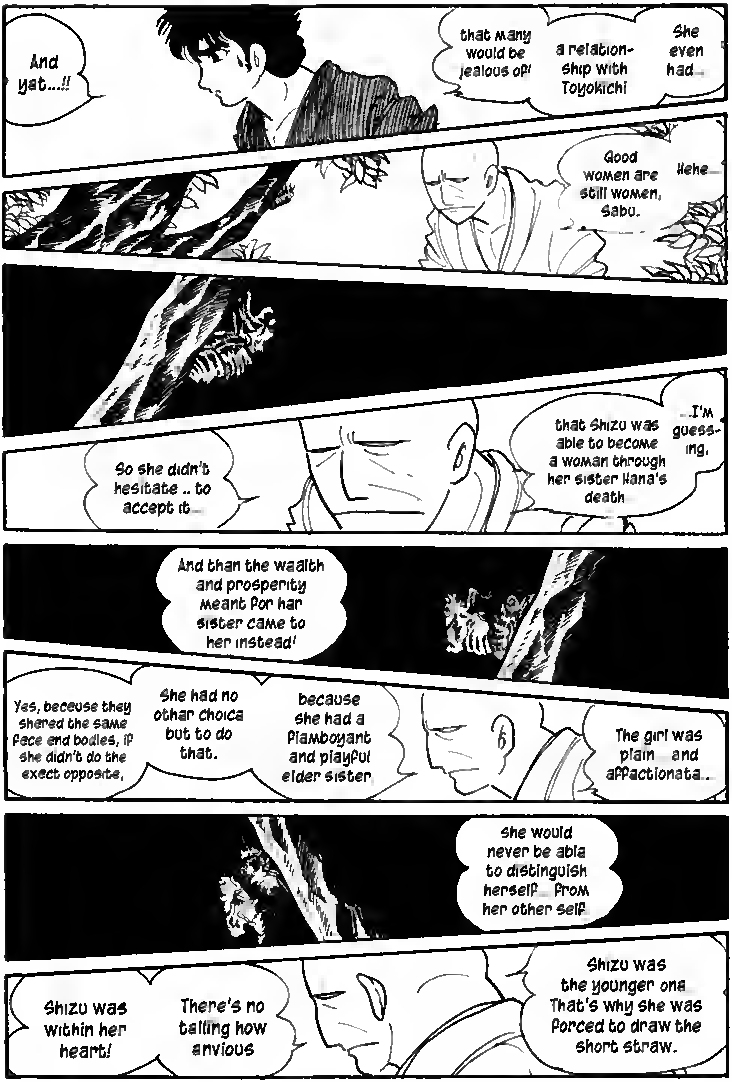
But. . But he's no weakness to me!
I have met that men once or twice in the past...
I-I must admit...
He put together some nonsense to try to extort money from me!!
W-When he learned of my engagement with Tsutaya...
H-Hey!
For my sister Shizu!!
B-But mistook me...
He tried to kill me...
S... Shizu!?
...I am the elder sister Hana!!

Hana... I mean, Shizu..
I don't understand at all
...I don't understand.

...Yeah, I would say so myself.
...I have no doubt that that woman was Shizu


Why .. would such a docile... and kind woman lie like that!?
T-Then why, Ichi!?

納


And yet...!!
that many would be jealous of!
a relation-ship with Toyokichi
She even had...
Good women are still women, Sabu.
Hehe...
...I'm guessing.
that Shizu was able to become a woman through her sister Hana's death...
So she didn't hesitate .. to accept it...
And than the wealth and prosperity meant for her sister came to her instead!
Yes, because they shared the same face and bodies, if she didn't do the exact opposite,
She had no other choice but to do that.
because she had a flamboyant and playful elder sister
The girl was plain... and affectionate..
she would never be abla to distinguish herself... from her other self
Shizu was the younger one That's why she was forced to draw the short straw.
There's no telling how anxious
Shizu was within her heart!

S-So, Ichi...
.....
Are you saying that Shizu had the same personality as Hana all along..?
B-But...
Never mind that, Sabu. Ignorance is bliss, you know.
I'm sure the young master of Tsutaya doesn't care whether it's the elder or younger sister.
They were twins, after all.
D-Dammit!
Such is woman.
Depressingly enough... such is woman...

August 1969: "Chirping Cicadas" (FIN)

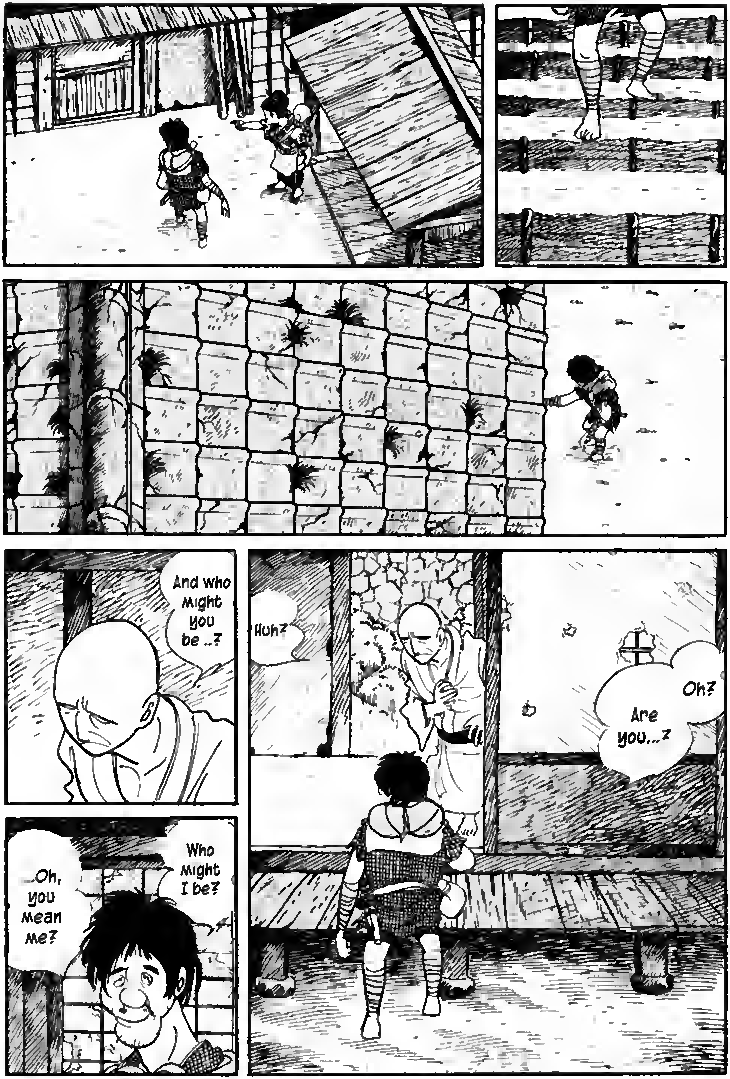
佐武と市捕物控

SABU & ICHI

Chapter 20
presented by
Hokuto no gun
and
Happy scans

Translated by SystematicChaos
Cleaned by Wright
Typesetting by Kazuhiko

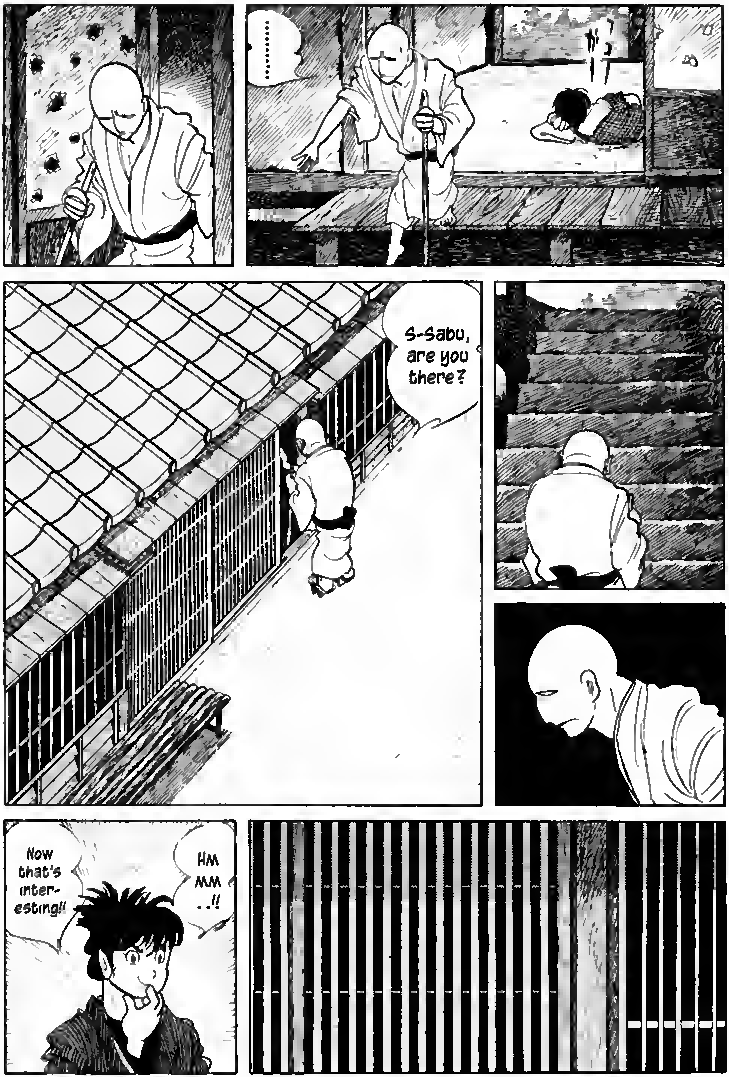
Chapter 21: Ninja

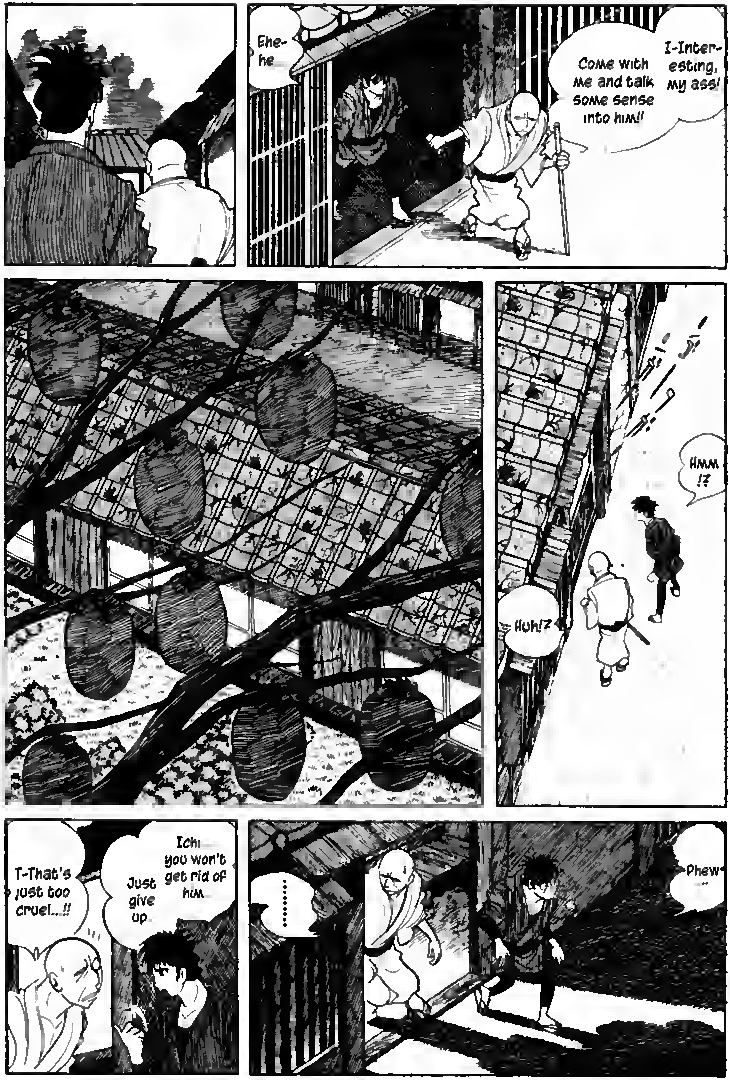

And who might you be...?
Huh?
Oh? Are you...?
Who might I be?
...Oh, you mean me?

...I'm the masseur Matsu-no-Ichi, but .. did you.... need something from me...?
Huh?
So are you... the quick-draw master Matsu-no-Ichi ..?
.. Hmm ..
Well, people call me Mujina.
I want you to take me in as your student!!
But since you're Matsu-no-Ichi, I guess I'll be stayin' here for a while.
Eh.. hehe... Well, it ain't all that much, really.
Huh!?
W-What did you ..!?
.....
It does look a little bit crowded...
but it should be enough for two

I want you to teach me the quick-draw...
That won't do at all.
I don't... need any students... I mean, I won't take any!!
H...Hold on a second!!
This is ridiculous!!
A-After all, I'm just a masseur...
T-Teach you?
But I can't just...
Aren't you Matsu-no-Ichi?
Oh, really?
.....
I can earn enough for myself... See, I brought some rice with me.
Aha, no need to worry about feedin' me.
I made 'em yesterday, but... you want one?
No... I'm fine
Oh, I think I still have some rice balls in here.

My stomach's so full, I'm starting to get sleepy!!
Yaaaaawn.
You... oh, Mujina
N...Now, listen
H-
Hold on!
Just let me take a short nap here
I've been on the road since yesterday morning, after all
.....
Hold... on...

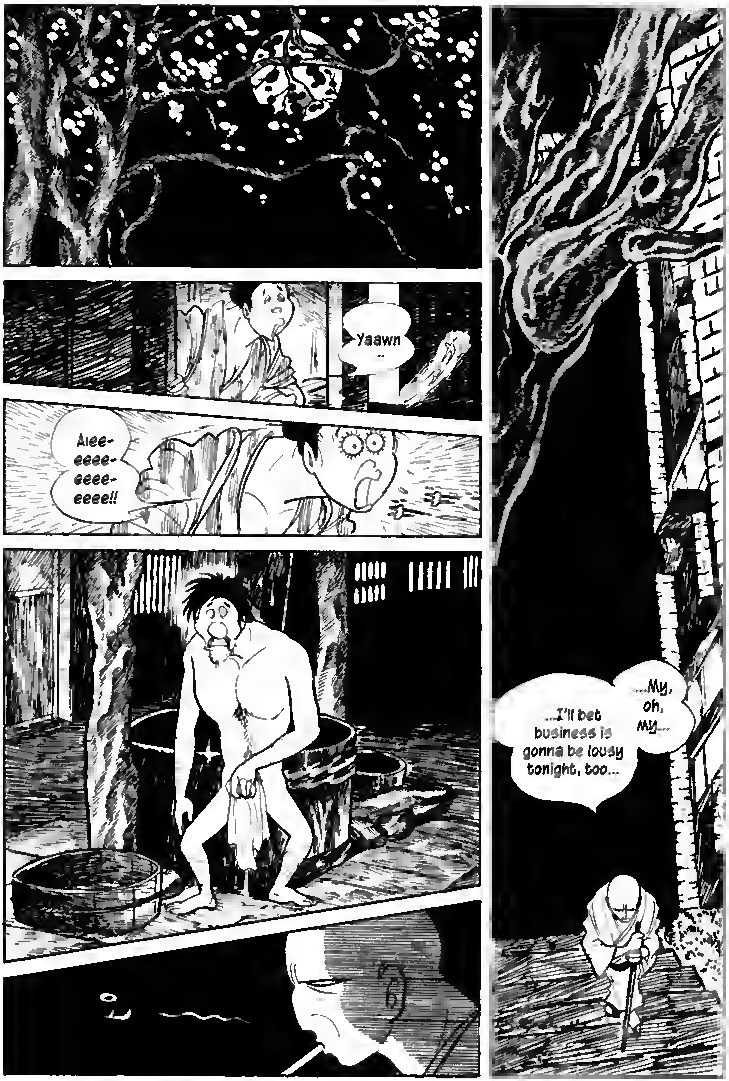

S-Sabu, are you there?
Now that's inter-esting!!
HM MM ..!!


Ehe-he...
I-Interesting, my ass!
Come with me and talk some sense into him!!
Huh!?
Hmm!?
T-That's just too cruel...!!
Just give up.
Ichi you won't get rid of him.
.....
Phew...

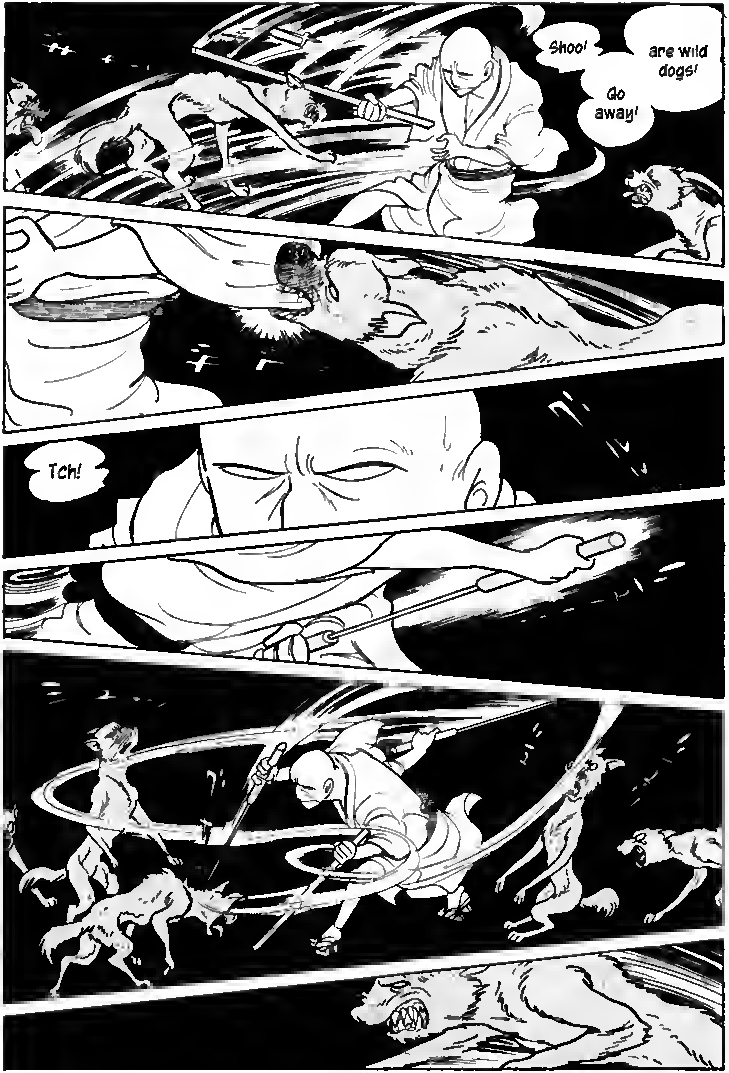
...Besides, you're the one at fault here.
Heh... he...
Still... You won't even be able to move him with a lever...
...And... He's no dog or cat, so you can't just pick him up and toss him out.
Y-You got a point, Bob...
W... Why...!?
H-Hey, Sabu!
W-Weren't we friends...!?
Master Matsu-no-Ichi!!
Just give in and let him stay,
Well,
Because you're the famous master of quick-draws!
Grrrrgh!
Now, time for food!!
Heh.. he.
.....

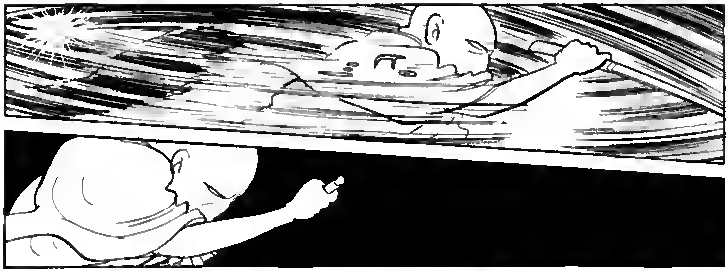
I'm a masseur... A masseur, I said!!
I'm just about to go out now!!
I'm not back to stay, you know!!
Oh, Master!!
Welcome back home!
Aha!
Oh yeah.. You're right!!
Then allow me to accompany you!
After all,
the roads are dark at night It'll be dangerous...
I'm... blind!
Argh..
Otherwise I refuse to share the room with you!!
Go to the bath house and wash yourself off...
Why do you smell so awful...?
If you walk with me, you'll scare off all my customers!!
A-And also ...!!
Oh...
So, you're gonna let me stay here!!
I thought that's how it would be... but I'm still happy about it!
Thank you so much!

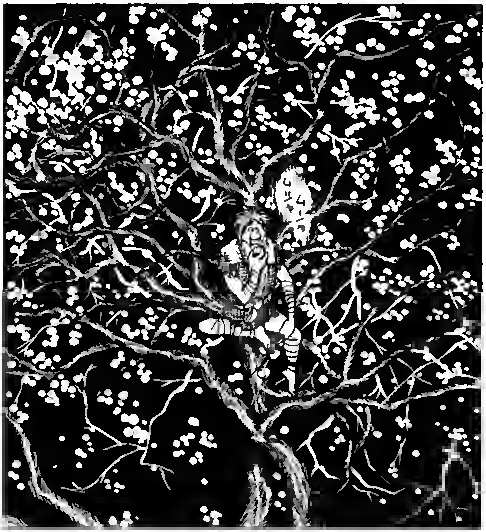
H-Hold on...
I'm just letting you stay tonight..
because I don't really have much choice...
I'll work as hard as I can...
.....
.. Looks like that's the way it's gonna be.
I'll even take baths if you want me to...
Sh-hhh!
Urrgh
Come back safely!!


Yaawn
...
Aiee-eeee-eeee-eeee!!
...My, oh, my...
...I'll bet business is gonna be lousy tonight, too...

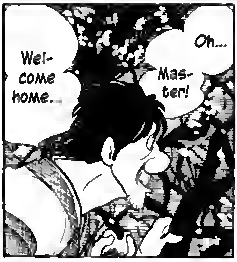
Look at that!! Today's not my lucky day.
Ever since that weird scoundrel found himself at my doorstep... I haven't even had the slightest hint of a customer!
to
.....
The only ones that come to me

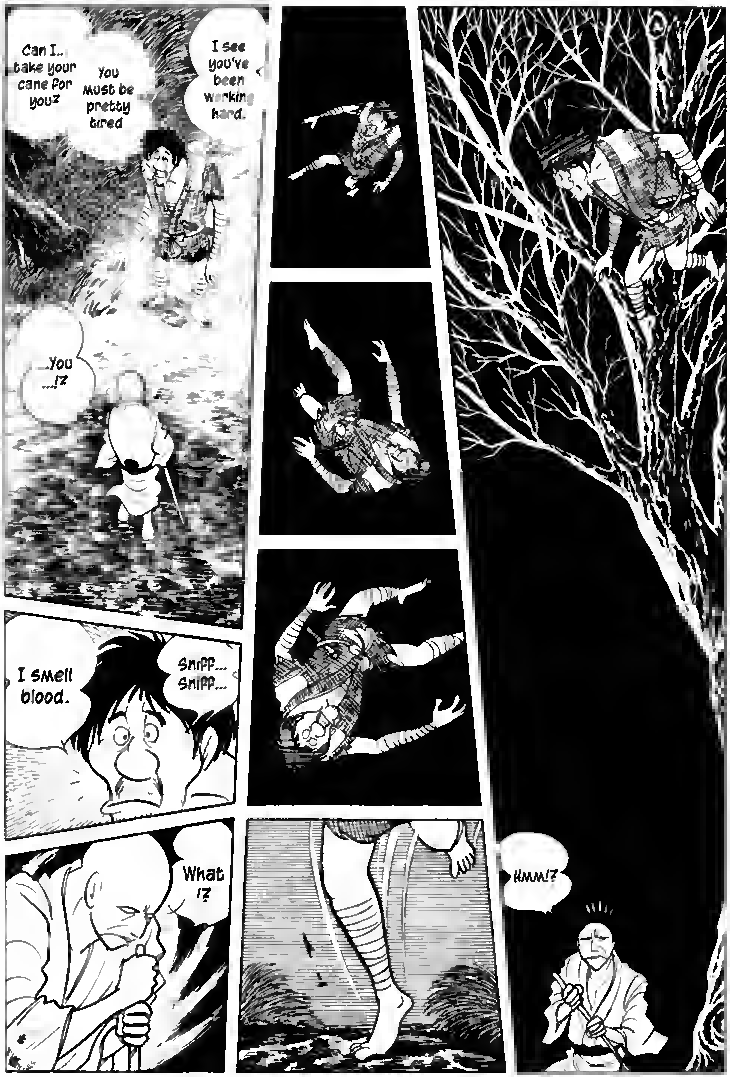

Shoo!
are wild dogs!
Go away!
Tch!

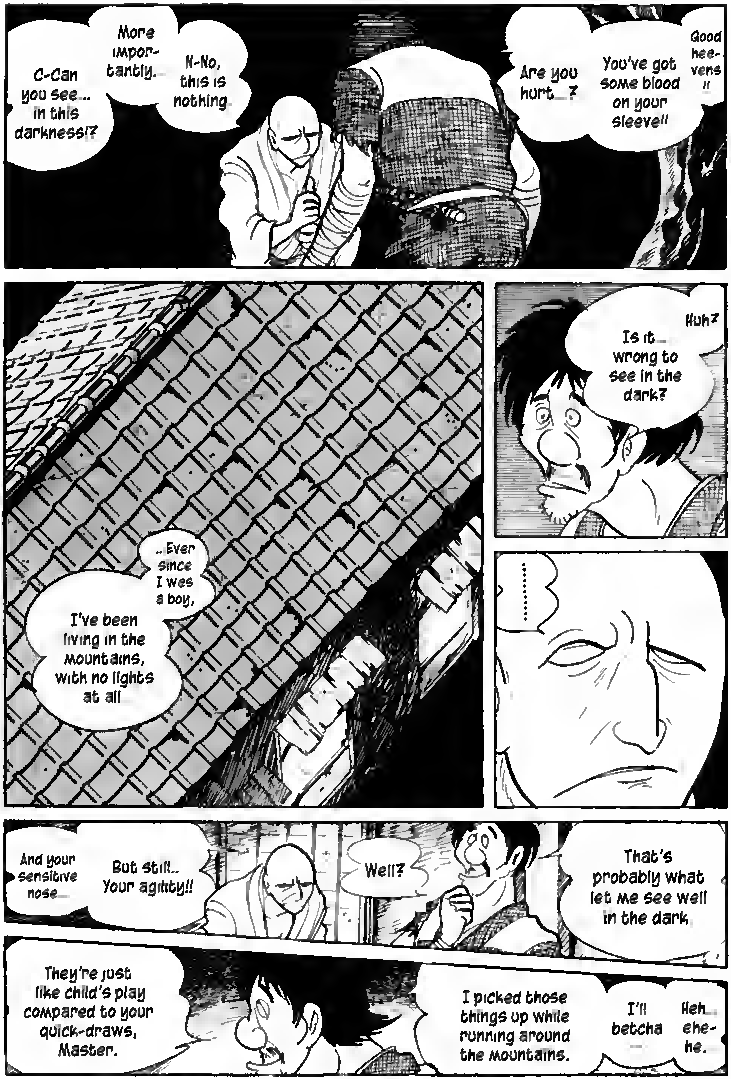


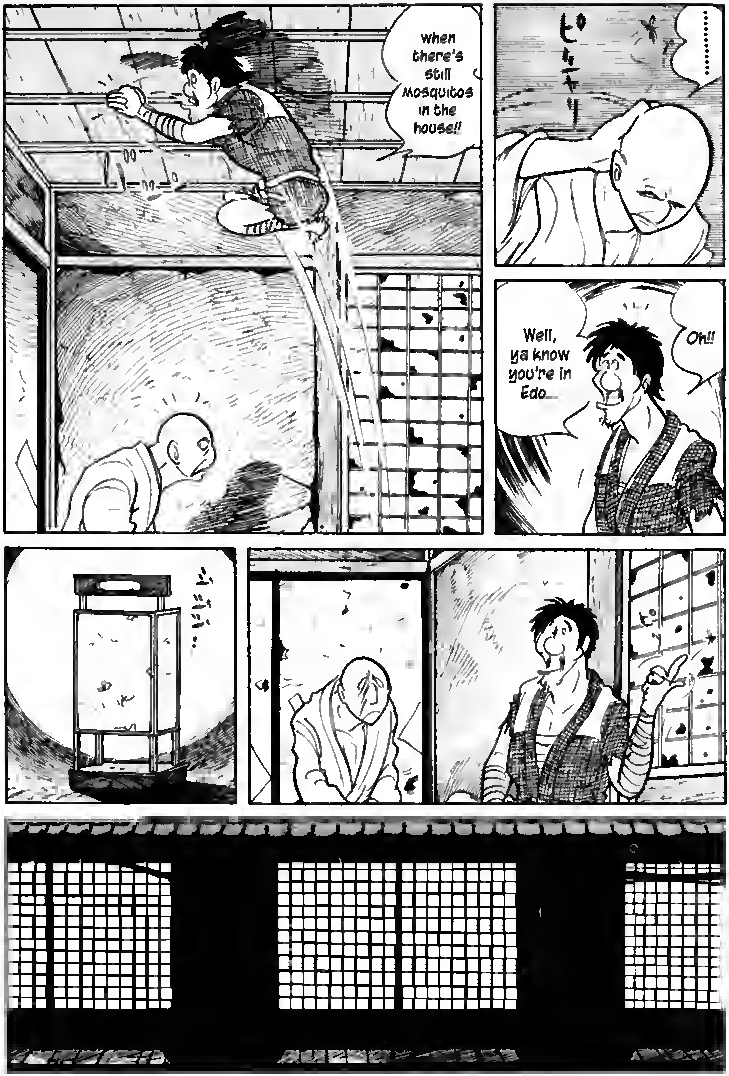


I'm not in a very good mood tonight.
.. I told you to go away!!


Oh...
Master!
Welcome home...

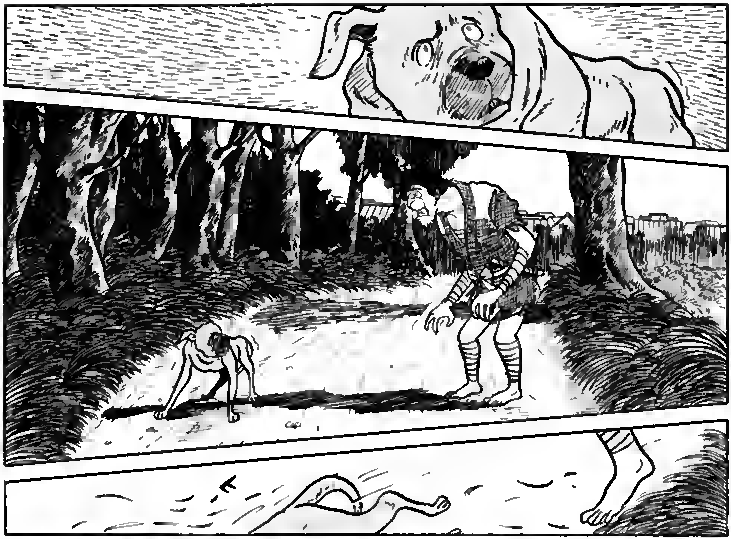

I see you've been workin hard.
You must be pretty tired
Can I.. take your cane for you?
...Iz
I smell blood.
SniPP... SniPP...
What Iz
AH!
HMM!?


C-Can you see... in this darkness!?
More important-tantly.
N-No, this is nothing.
Are you hurt...?
You've got some blood on your sleeve!!
Good hee-vens!!
Huh?
Is it... wrong to see in the dark?
...Ever since I was a boy,
I've been living in the mountains, with no lights at all.
And your sensitive nose...
But still... Your agility!!
Well?
That's probably what let me see well in the dark.
They're just like child's play compared to your quick-draws, Master.
I picked those things up while running around the mountains.
I'll betcha
Heh... ehe-he.

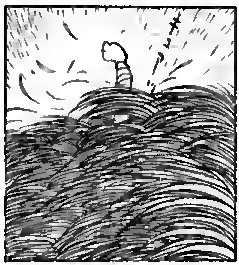

when there's still mosquitos in the house!!
Oh!!
Well, ya know you're in Edo...

I washed your clothes for you last night. See, it's already dry!
I've got breakfast ready for you!
So you're finally awake!
.....
Ooh...
Oh, hey there!
...And he didn't even make a peep...!!
So not even Ichi, whose ears are twice as sensitive as normal, noticed him at all!?
Oh!?

Huh?
He could be...
Just looking at... or should I say listening to... his agility, I feel like he's no ordinary man.
Yes
...This just seems eerie.
No, that can't be..
Oh?
Eheha... Well, what's wrong with it?
In fact, this is making me want a student, too!!
He seems quite ruggedly simple and kind-hearted to me.
On top of that,
You get breakfast ready and your clothes washed by the time you wake up..
You're only saying that cause you don't have to deal with it. Well, we'll see.

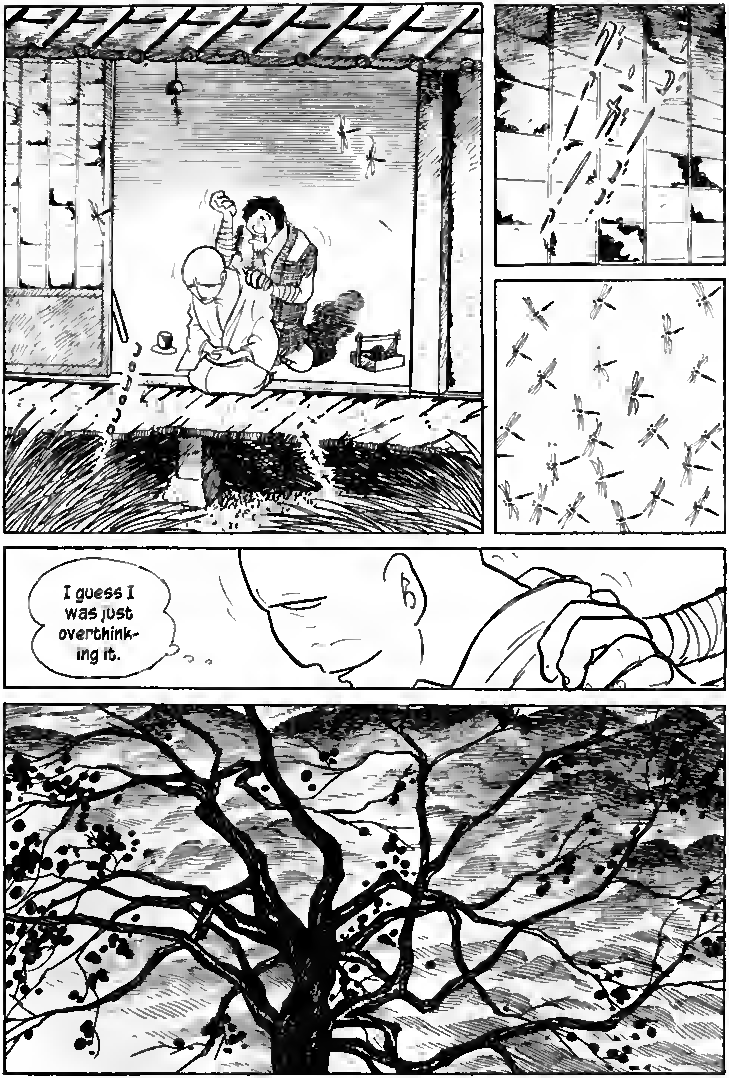


.....
Uheh... he



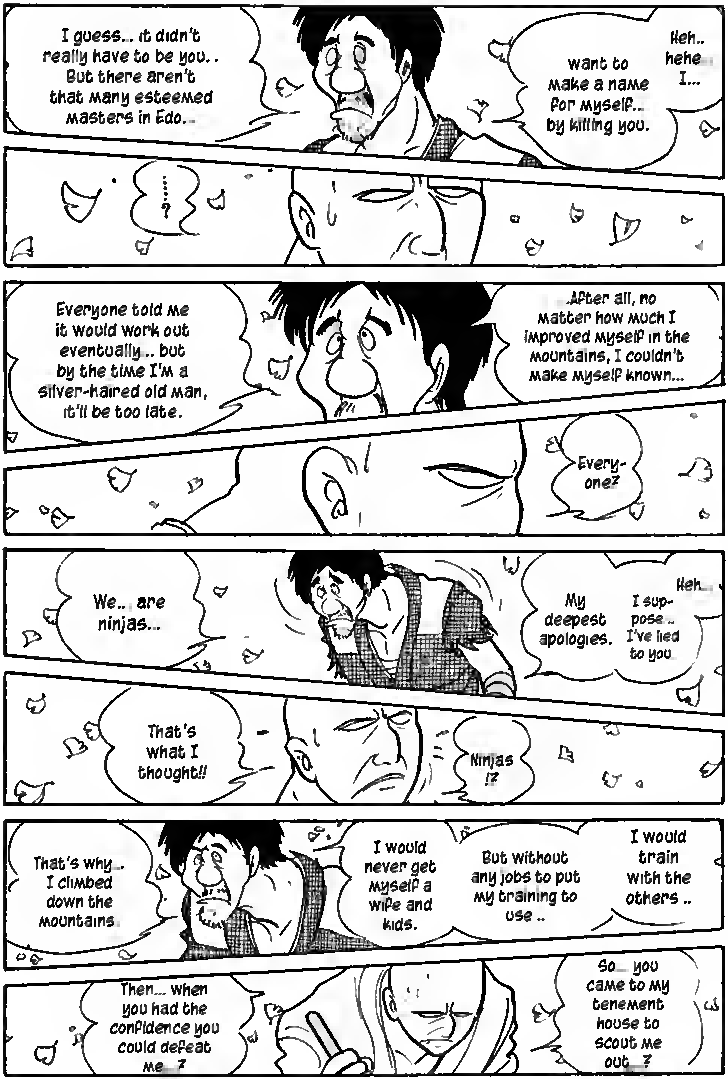
Where are you, Mujina?
Mujina!!
Right here!
Yes!
Come back safely!!
Then again... It's not like there's anything to take
...I'm going out now, so watch the house while I'm gone
D-Don't startle me like that!!
God-dam-mit

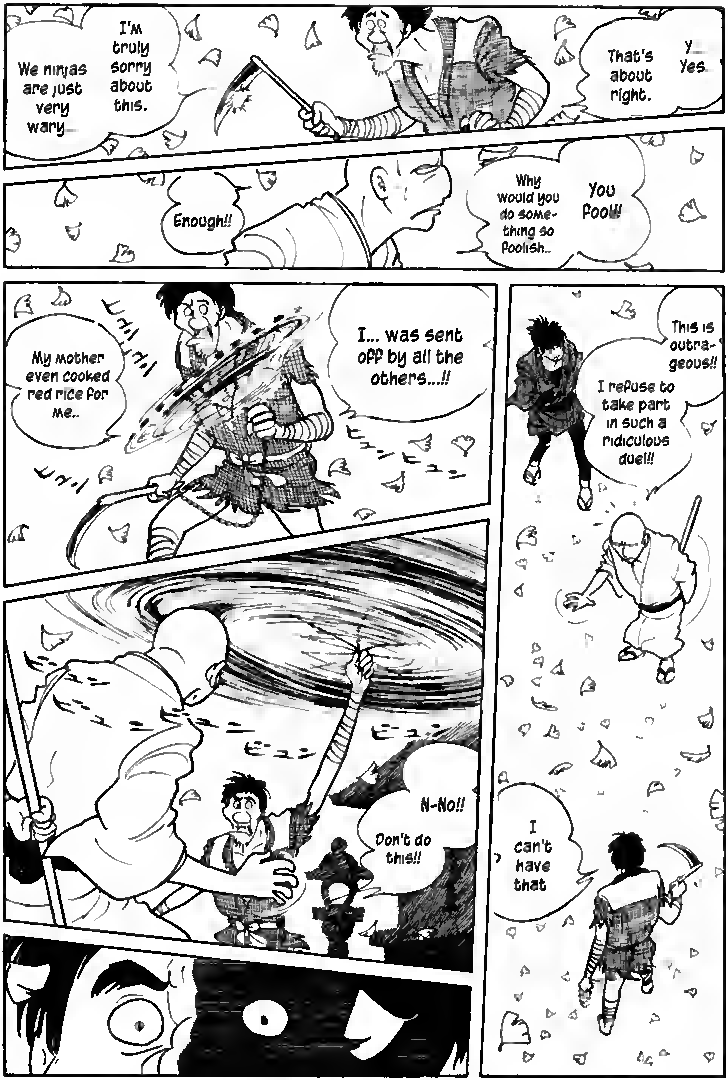
Tch.
Mumble mumble
... Mommy ...

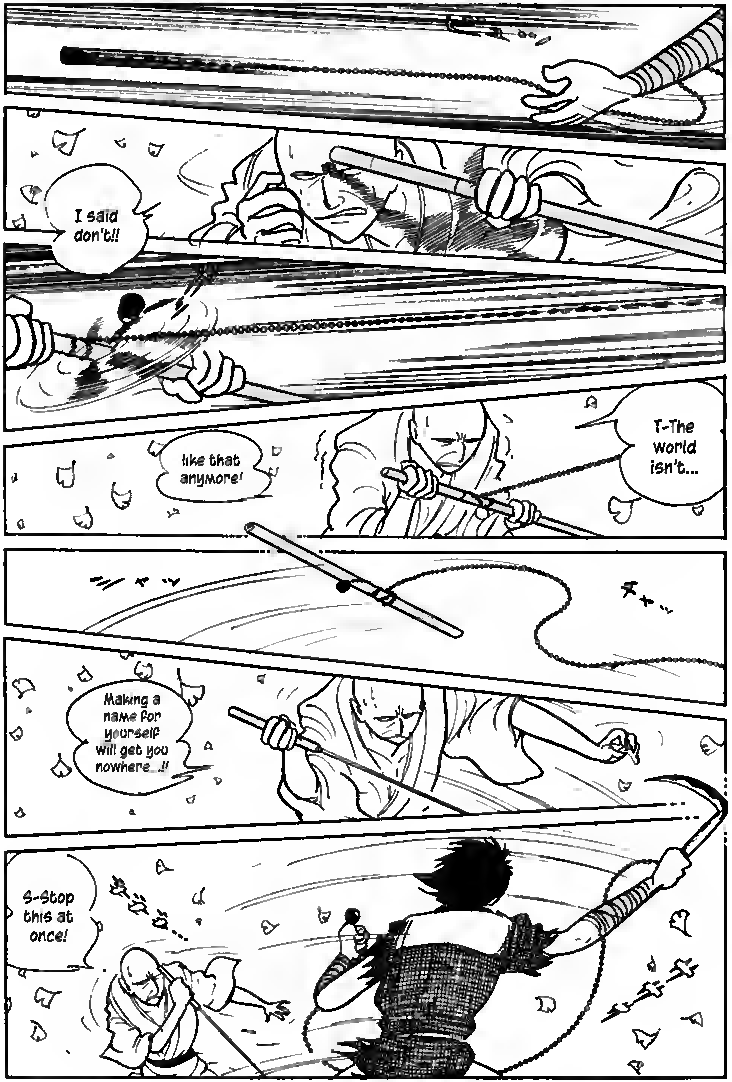

I guess I was just overthinking it.

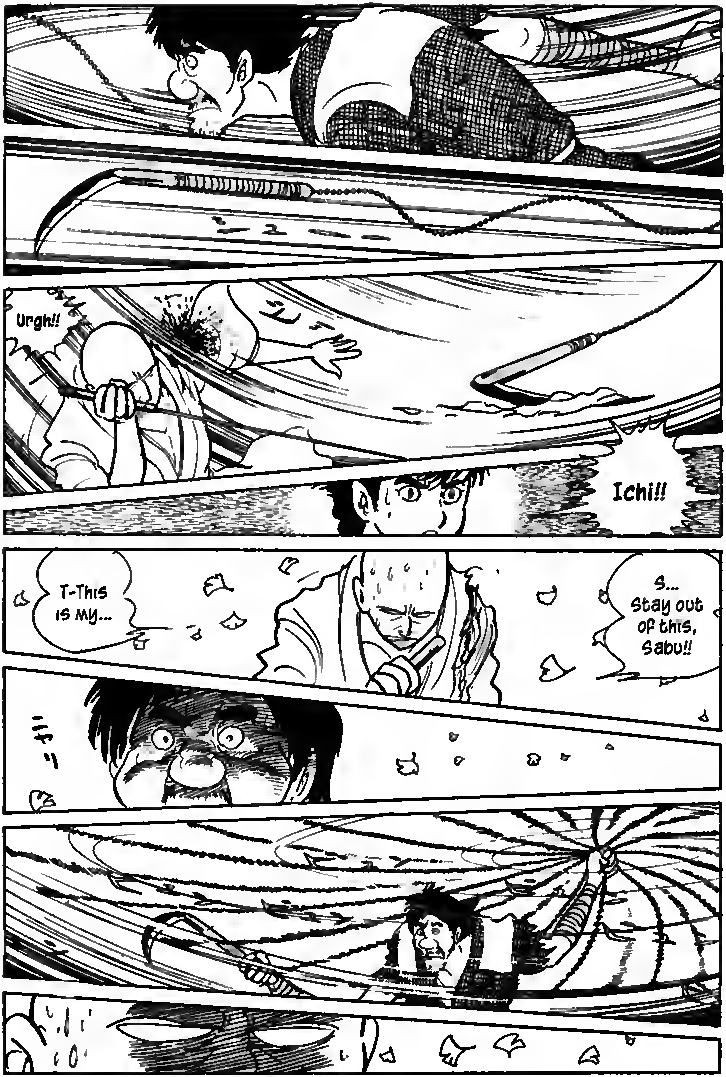
Hey, Ichi!
What did you want to see me for?
Hmm?
Huh? Well, a messenger just came to me...
What are you talking about, Sabu?
See you for?

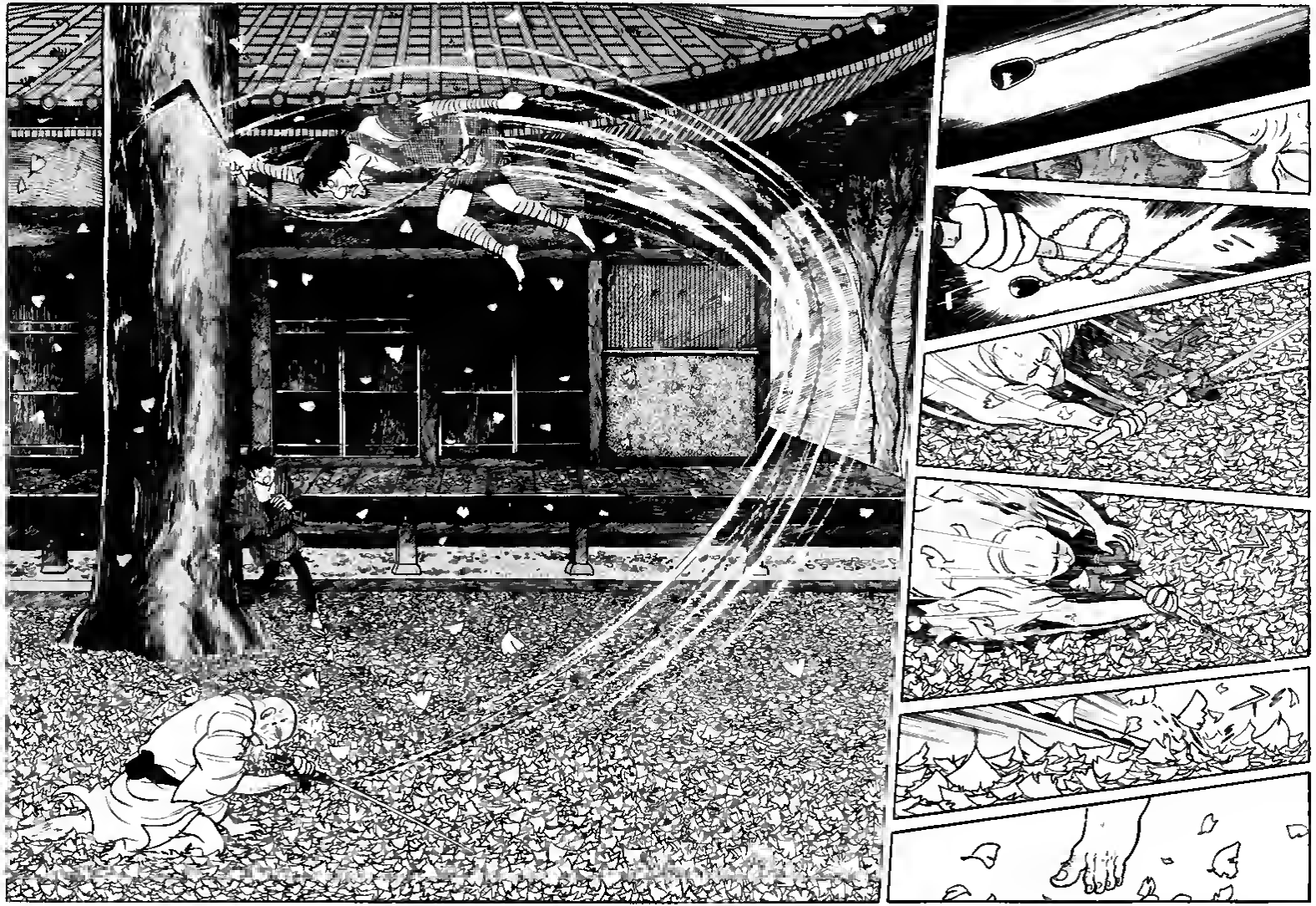
Huh?
I...
I was the one who called you here.
Huh?
want you to serve as witness for my duel with the Master.
I hate to say it... but I must take your life..
H-Hey, Mujina!
What nonsense is this!?
I'm being serious
Now, prepare yourself !!
Muj-ina!?

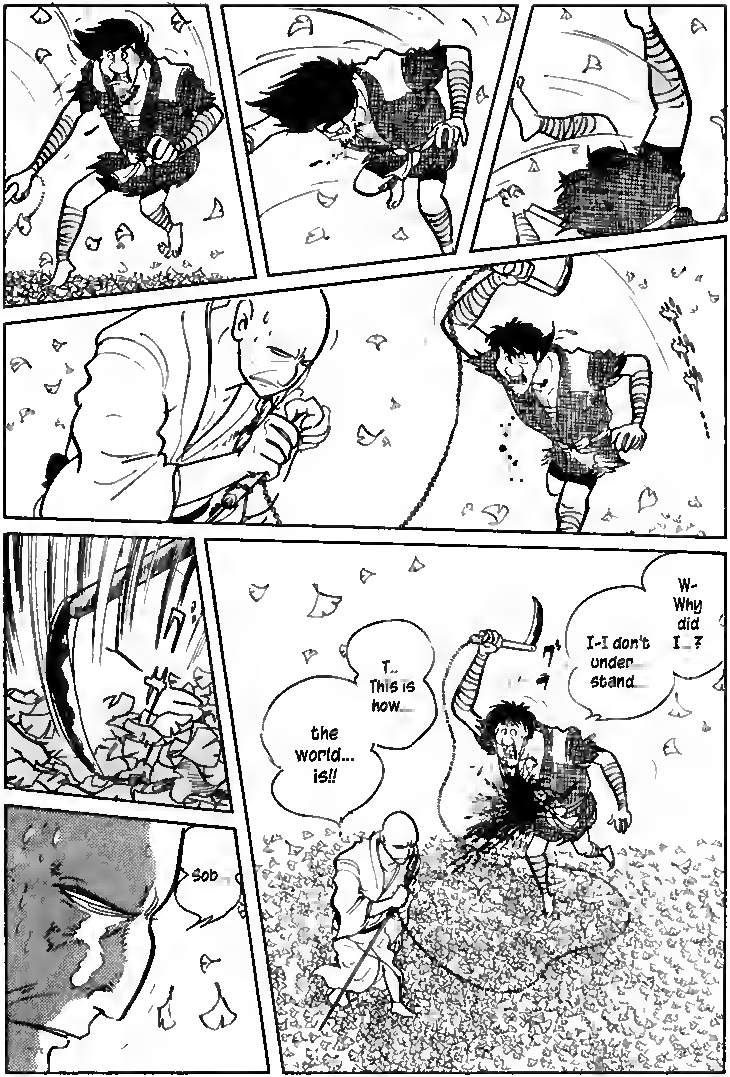

I guess... it didn't really have to be you.. But there aren't that many esteemed masters in Edo..
Heh.. hehe I...
want to make a name for myself... by killing you.
!?
Everyone told me it would work out eventually... but by the time I'm a silver-haired old man, it'll be too late.
After all, no matter how much I improved myself in the mountains, I couldn't make myself known...
Every-one?
We... are ninjas...
My deepest apologies.
I sup-pose... I've lied to you
Heh..
That's what I thought!!
Ninjas !?
That's why... I climbed down the mountains.
I would never get myself a wife and kids.
But without any jobs to put my training to use..
I would train with the others..
Then... when you had the confidence you could defeat me ?
So... you came to my tenement house to scout me out ?

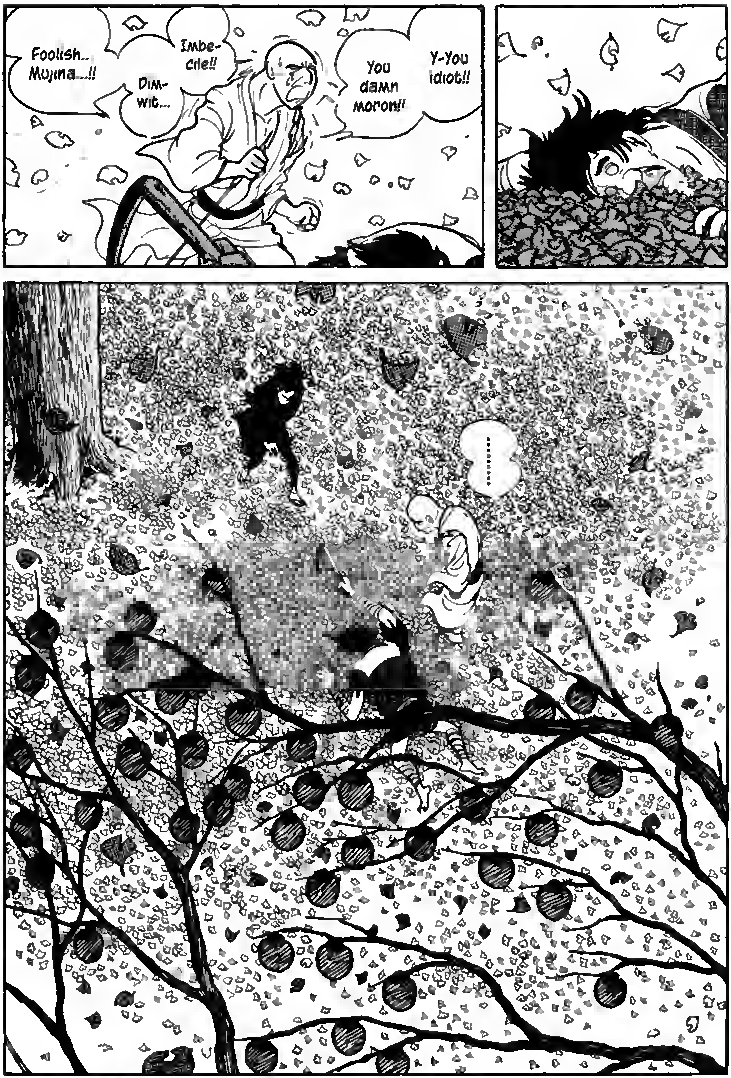

We ninjas are just very wary—
I'm truly sorry about this.
That's about right.
Y—Yes.
Enough!!
Why would you do something so foolish..
You fool!!
My mother even cooked red rice for me..
I... was sent off by all the others...!!
This is outrageous!!
I refuse to take part in such a ridiculous duel!!
N-No!!
Don't do this!!
I can't have that


I said don't!!
like that anymore!
T-The world isn't...
Making a name for yourself will get you nowhere...!!
S-Stop this at once!


Urgh!!
Ichi!!
T-This is my...
S... Stay out of this, Sabu!!




W-Why did I...?
I-I don't understand...
T... This is how...
the world... is!!
Sob



October 1969: "Ninja" (FIN)

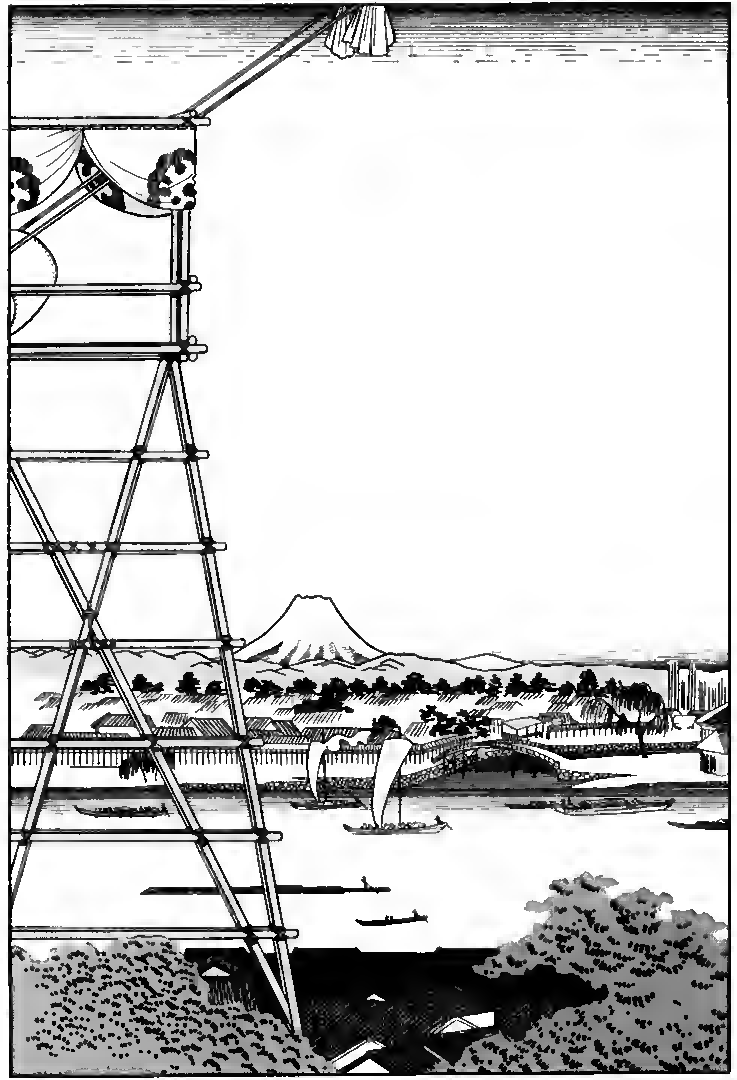
佐武と市捕物控

SABU & ICHI

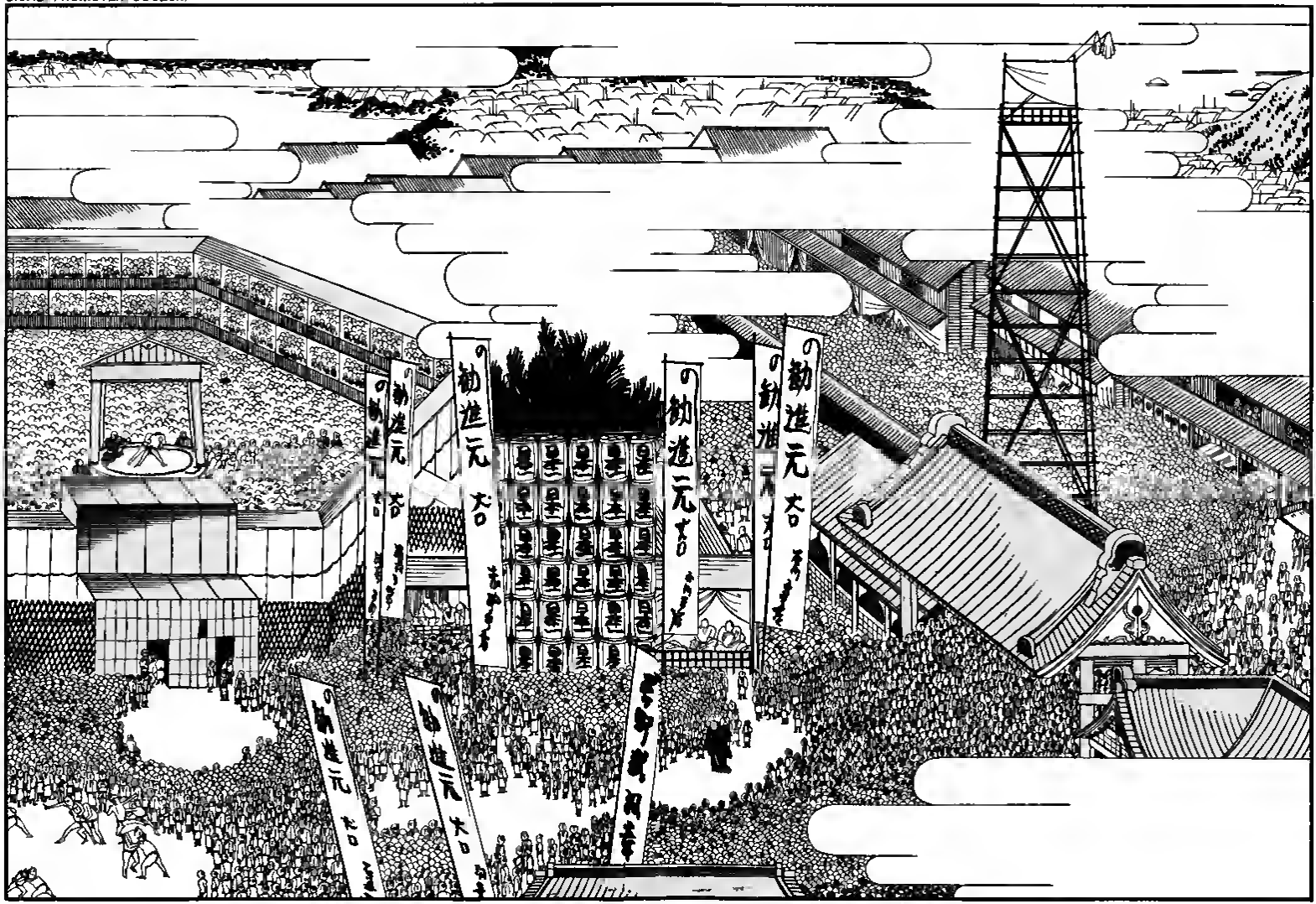
Chapter 21
presented by
Hokuto no gun
and
Happy scans

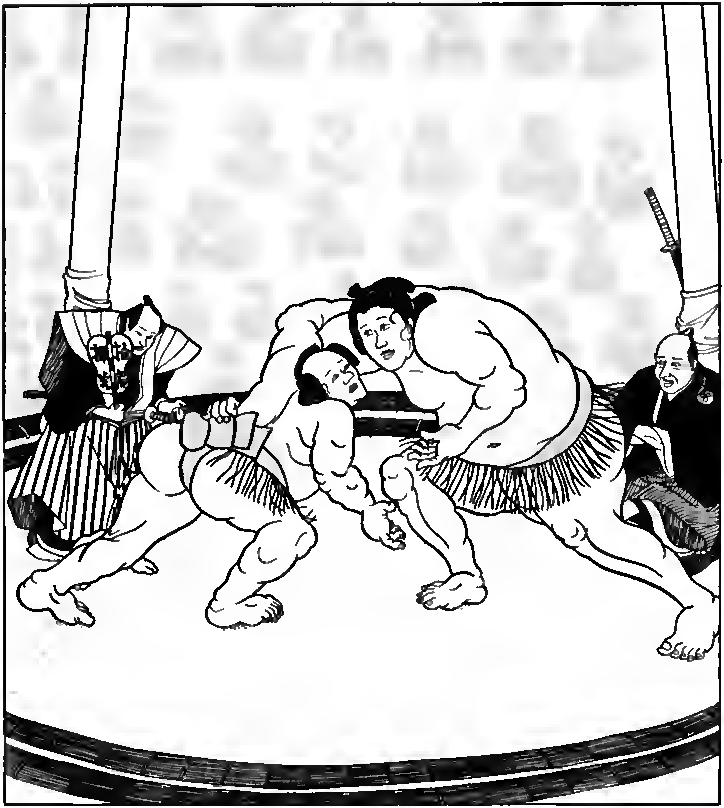
Translated by SystematicChaos
Cleaned by Wright
Typesetting by Kazuhiko

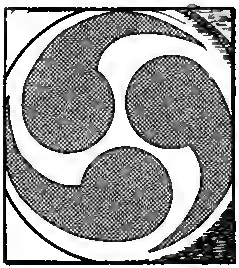
Chapter 22: Caterpillar

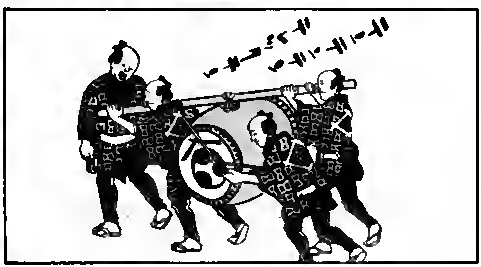


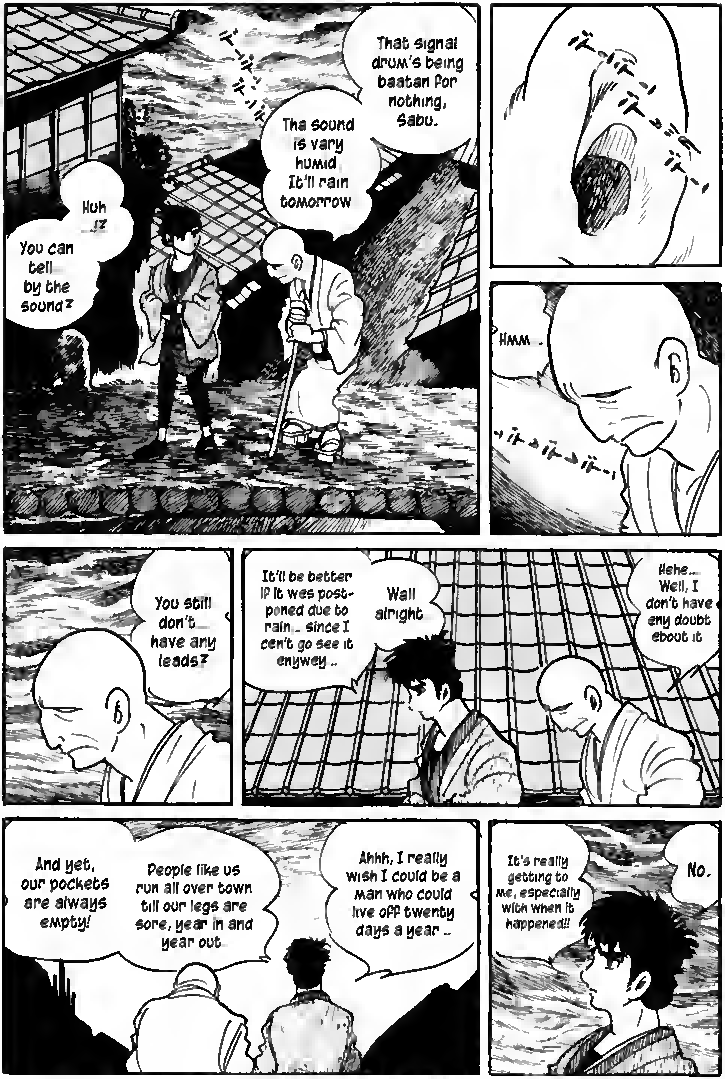
SIGN PARDON
御免


の勧進元
の勧進元
の勧進元
の勧進元
の勧進元
の勧進元








That signal drum's being beaten for nothing, Sabu.
Tha sound is very humid It'll rain tomorrow
Huh ..?
You can tell... by the sound?
ドーン ドーン
ドーン ドーン
Hmm ..
You still don't... have any leads?
It'll be better if it was postponed due to rain... since I can't go see it anyway ..
Well alright
Hehe... Well, I don't have any doubt about it
And yet, our pockets are always empty!
People like us run all over town till our legs are sore, year in and year out
Ahhh, I really wish I could be a man who could live off twenty days a year ..
It's really getting to me, especially with what's happened!!!
No.

TL NOTE: A PHRASE THAT REFERRED TO SUMO WRESTLERS. THEY ONLY HAD TO "WORK" IN THE SEMIANNUAL 10-DAY TOURNAMENTS, AND WERE PAID A LOT FOR IT.

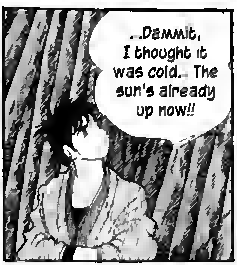
I don't really care if she hears it or not
Tch, what the hell?
You sure you want Midori to hear that?
Hehehe... You're sounding just like any other adult.
Hah!!
We can't even go to Yoshiwara.
...God-dammit!!
Hehehe...
That's their business, and this is our business
Don't complain, don't complain
Hehehe... Well, you think so?
Alright, Ichi... Let's scurry around town a little longer!
That's the spirit!
Hohho!
I'll make sure I'M able to go to Ekoin the day before the Festivities begin!!
I'll tie up the perpetrator, and...!!
Then I suppose it's time for me to "open up shop", too
Alright

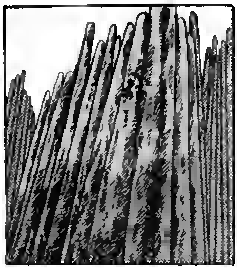
Tch,
It always gets so chilly when the sun starts to set...
... Right here...
Two days ago...
Three men were killed...
Their heads were split open and their necks broken...

I could tell at first sight that they were gangsters.
At least, that's what I thought
They must have gotten into a fight over a turf war or some stupid competition of pride
But...
What's more...
None of the kingpins around here had any such henchmen.

Two of them didn't die of a sword wound!
They must've been bludgeoned to death
by something hard like a rock!!
...Sure, there's plenty of lumber here...

But no ordinary man could even lift one of these thick logs, much less swing it around...


...Dammit, I thought it was cold... The sun's already up now!!



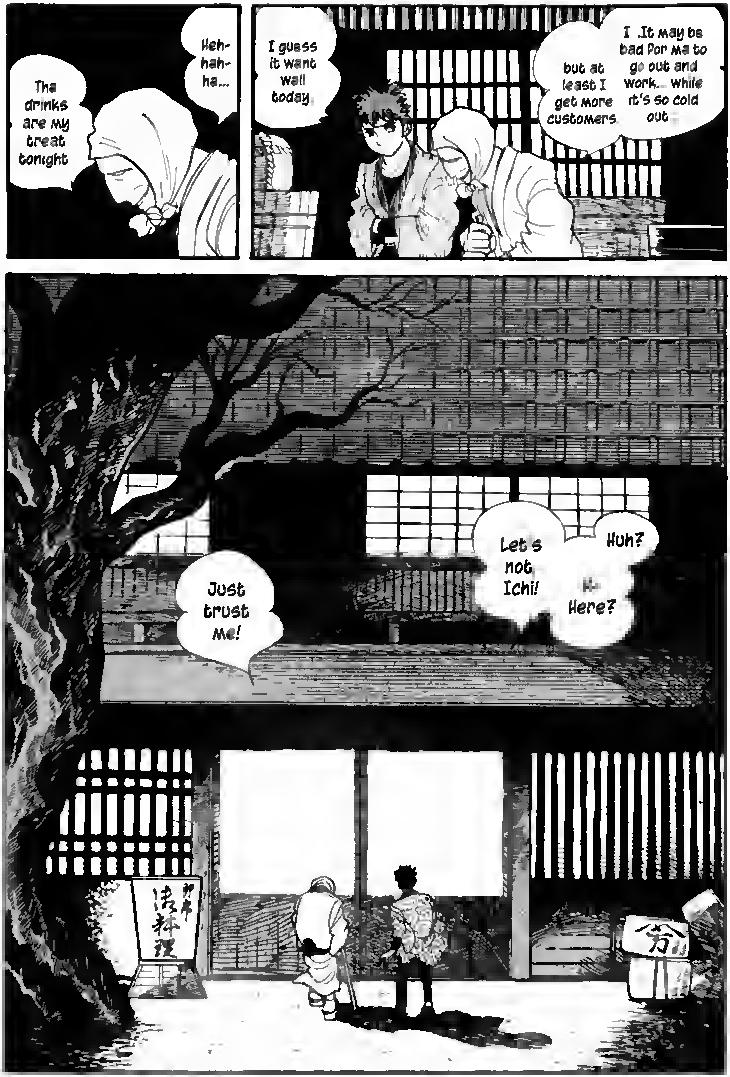
B... Blood!?
Eek!
W-Were they... beaten to death with this!?
...That blood must've splattered on there when they were being beaten...
Heh... T-That's impossible...
...But that's not likely, either, considering how high it is... Which means...
that this log was on the ground when they were killed...
Y-You're kidding me...!?
Yes, what is it?
Would you mind if I asked you a question...?
Ah!
it's been standin' like this since it was brought here!
No, ...This log?

...A wrestler!?
...But whoever swung this log around... Must be a giant with herculean strength!!
They wouldn't have a prayer!!
One hit would do the trick...
and beat those three with it!!
Somebody... picked this up...

...If that's the case, Sabu...

If the perpetrator's a sumo wrestler,
It's the Magistrate of Temples' job to prosecute him
Then we townsfolk can't do a thing...
My!
The perpetrator's a sumo wrestler... Are you sure?
I have a lead from him, too!
The night of the murders... somebody saw a sumo wrestler in the area
I don't have any doubt about it...
Then... How do you explain the blood on the log...?
It's not that rare to see one there...
They hang out in that area...
But listen...
Oh?
Mmm...
Are you still up?
Hey, Sabu!
...See, I knew it!
Teehee... That sneezing must be Ichi's!

Don't drink too much!
Heh
I won't drink enough to make you worried. I turn red pretty quickly.
Hey, Ichi
Oh, Sabu
It's really chilly out there. Wanna get a drink to warm us up?
Besides... I don't have enough money to drink too much.
Huh?
Wait here.
I wa just saying that...
Hmm?
N-No, it's fine!
Here.
...Sorry to keep you!!
Thanks.
Otherwise Ichi's gonna catch a cold!
Hear that? Now, hurry.
Hey, Sabu! Make it snappy!!

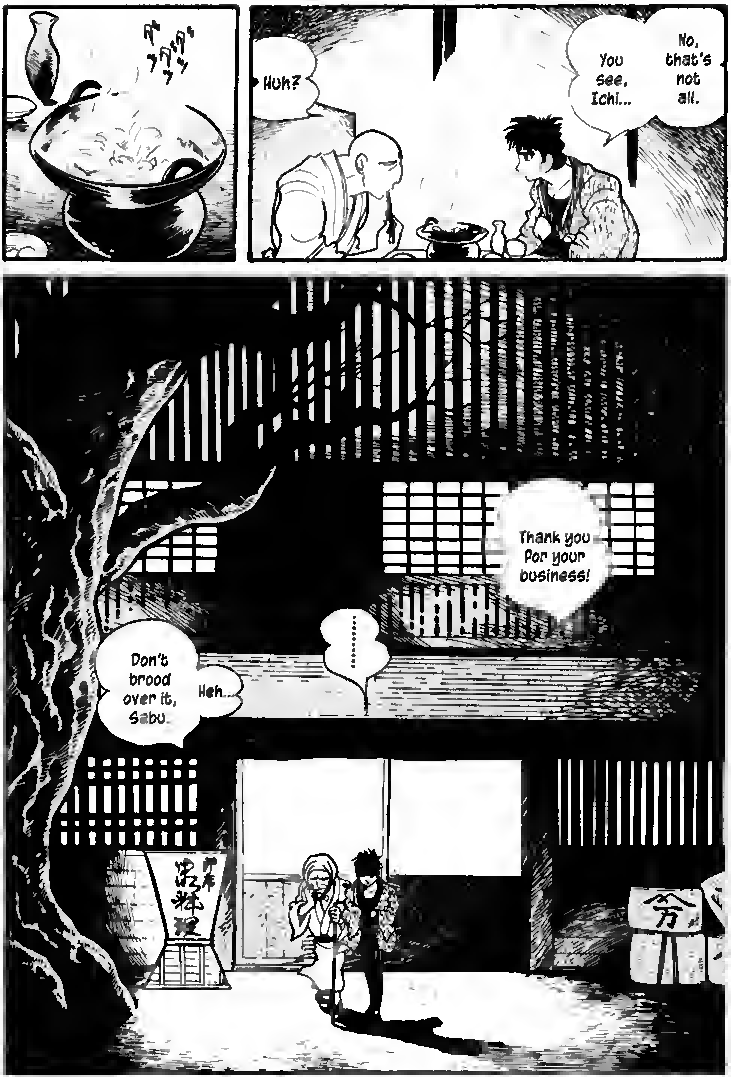

Heh-hah-ha...
The drinks are my treat tonight
I guess it wasn't well today
I ..It may be bad for Ma to go out and work... while it's so cold out
but at least I get more customers
Huh?
Here?
Let's not, Ichi!
Just trust me!

...Hmm!?
Hey, welcome to...
...Hey, you two!
Now, don't go staring at people...
Right this way
Huh?
You think so?
...Looks like there's a sumo wrestler here...
and of course, the hottest drink you got!
A hot pot...
What can I get you?
.....
Kehhehhe... Now, time to drink up!

Shh!
..Hmm? What's the matter?
トントン
TL NOTE: A SEKITORI IS A SUMO WRESTLER IN ONE OF THE TOP TWO DIVISIONS
?
..Don't worry about a thing, sir. I promise... I will throw the match tomorrow...
Yes, thanks.
..Here you are, Sekitori. Twenty ryo
ドン
チー!
Thank you for your patience!

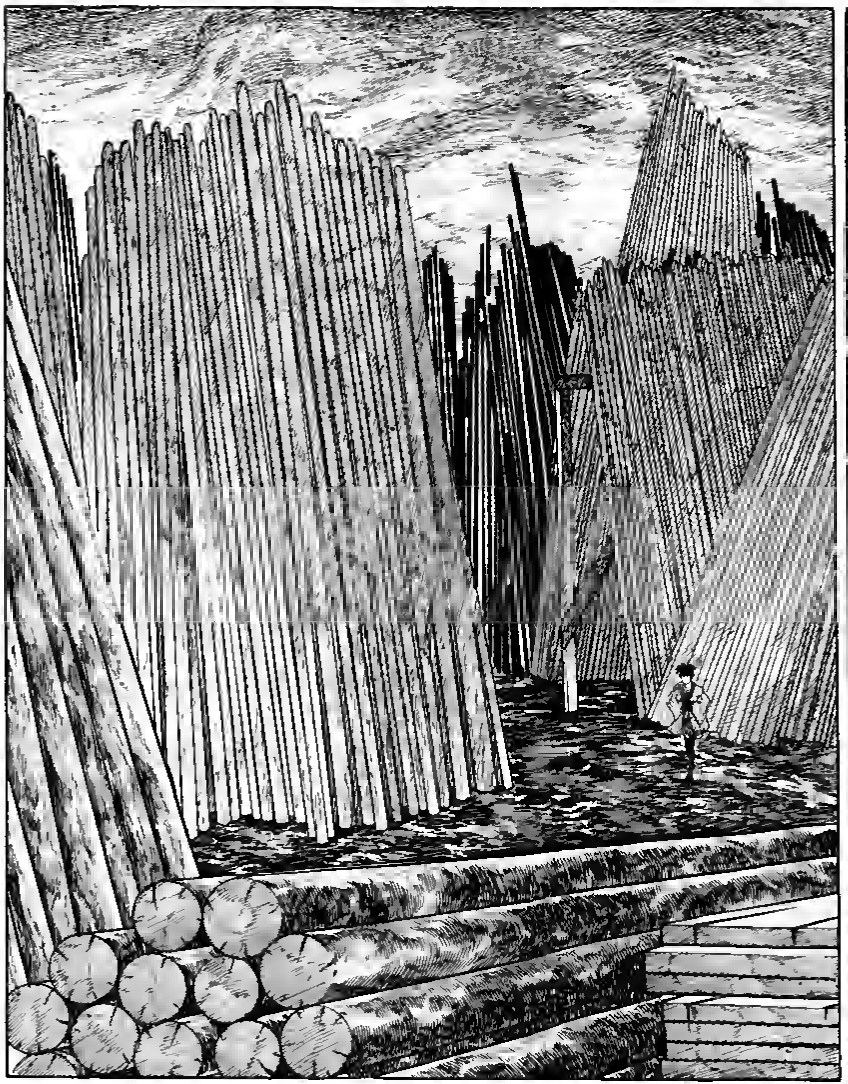
What's the matter, Sabu?
...Ichi!
Alright
Now, take your time..
Who promised to throw tomorrow's match!
He gave some money to the wrestler
That was Nagabe the grocer!
...Oh!
It's not that rare for people to fix sumo matches.
Didn't ya know?
Don't get so heated up!
Now, now, Sabu, have a drink, will ya!?
Huh!?
Heh... hehe- hehe..
W- What's so funny?

So...
That means their salary from the lord that hired them isn't enough.
and with their popular occupation, they play around a lot more gaudily.
They eat twice as much as a regular person.
Most of them don't really live off twenty days a year.
Heh. Wrestlers are people, too
Money blinds their judgment.
And besides
There you have it.
Hehehe.
Wahhahha! Thanks a lot!
Well then
Tch!
S-So that's how it is!
Now. I don't Peal like going to Ekoin anymore!
Hehe
Oh, don't be like that.

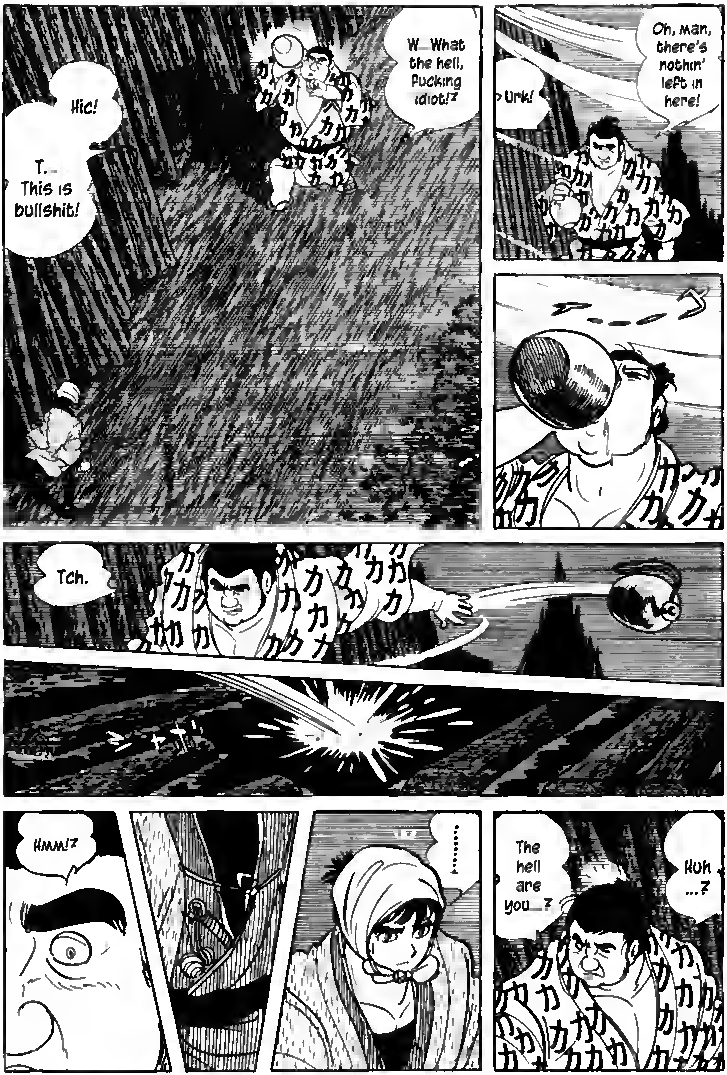

Huh?
You see, Ichi...
No, that's not all.
Thank you for your business!
Don't brood over it, Sabu.
Heh...

I'm starting to feel uneasy about that wrestler
And... that's not all
It's the Magistrate of Temples' job now Just forget it
But...
I just don't feel good about investigating a case so intently .. and giving up partway!
just about every evening
He . stands still around there. .
I-I'm already feeling cold!
Tch!

...Uh, is something happening here?

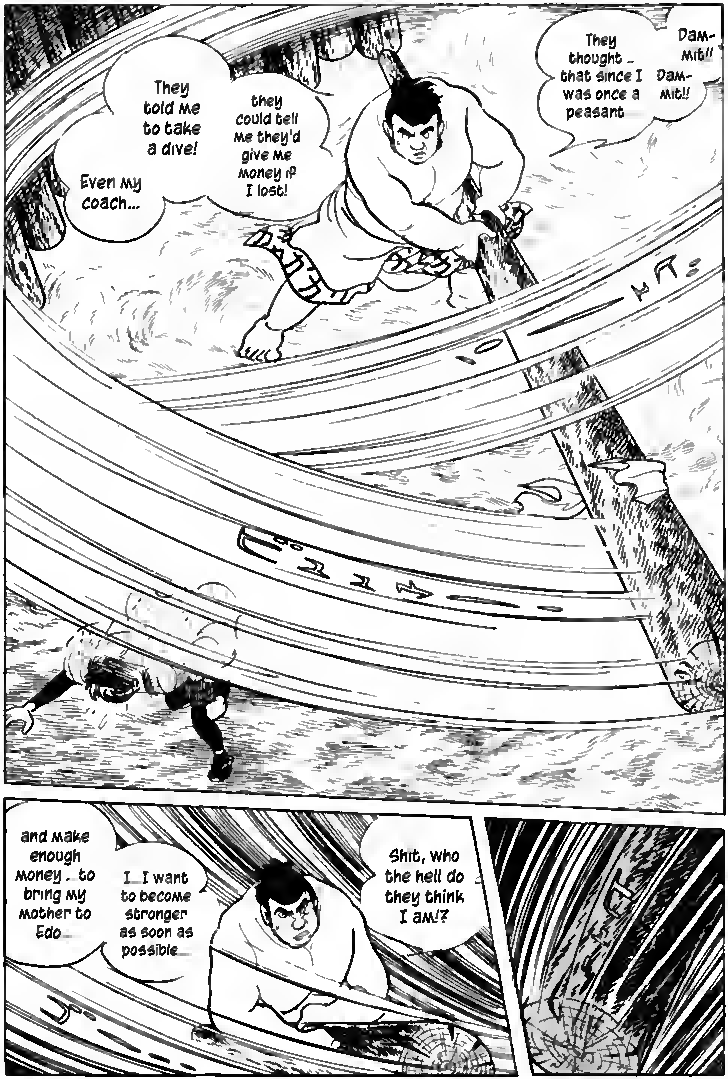


Hehehe..
So we're closing early tonight to have a feast...
My daughter's getting married tomorrow...
Hoooh!
Oh, nothing.
Dosukoi, dosukoi...
And the young Maiden's Shimada hairstyle loosens in sleep...
...The morning sun melts the white snow of Fuji...
Whose hand will you be thrown by tomorrow?
The sound of the drum wakes you up..
Yoi-yoi-yoi-yasa!
This is the greatest tournament of Ryogoku
The deity on the lawn, and the cedar forest in Yoshima


W...What the hell, fucking idiot!?
Hic!
T... This is bullshit!
Oh, man, there's nothin' left in here!
Urk!
Tch.
Hmm!?
.....
The hell are you...?
Huh ...?

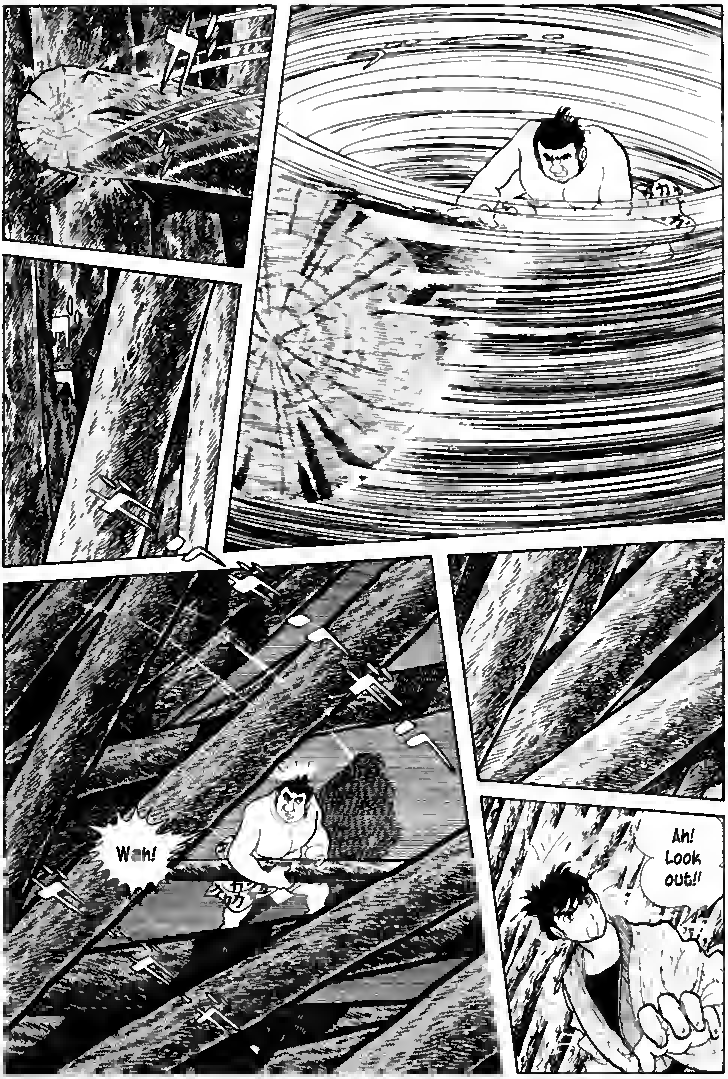
looking for the guy that killed the hooligans!
You're hic!
I see
Heh... hehehehehe
Heh... A thief-taker, are ya!?
..Those fucking morons ...!!
Ahh-hh...
Hmm!?
I was the one... w...who killed them!!
Heh. That's right
T-The hell!?
No...
You gonna bring me in?
Well, thief-taker?
He-he... he...
What!?

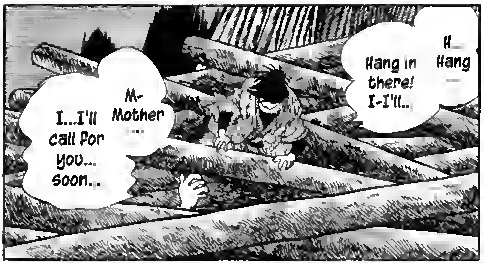
God-dam-mit!!
I'm a killer, y'know!!
S-Son of a bitch!
It's the Magistrate of Temples' duty to take you in!
I'm just a civilian thief-taker!
Dam-mit!
Everyone treats me like I'm some kinda joke!!
Magis-trate!?
Huh?
W-Wait!
Ooh!
I dare anyone to stop me if they can!!
To hell with it! It don't matter who!


Even my coach...
They told me to take a dive!
they could tell me they'd give me money if I lost!
They thought _ that since I was once a peasant
Dam-mit!!
Dam-mit!!
and make enough money _ to bring my mother to Edo
I_I want to become stronger as soon as possible
Shit, who the hell do they think I am!?

T-That's why I refused!
T-Then those ruffians...
Dam-mit!
カヤ カヤ
I thought it was my opponents who sent the ruffians...!
A-At first
My coach!!
B. But it was really..
S-Should such a fuckin'..
Fuckin' stupid thing be allowed to happen? Huh? Well?
He couldn't save his face, so they cut off one of his arms .. a. and made him apologize..
My opponent... took a huge loss because I won the match!
カヤ カヤ

Aaa-ugh..
M-My daughter. who always rooted for me at first...
is getting... getting married off.
On top o' that..!
O..On top o' that...
You were standing here every day so you could see your daughter..
S-So that's how it is!
I see
God-dammit!!
N-No, stop!!
Ah!!


Waah!
Ah! Look out!!



Raise the sacred light in the latticework and ask the sister if her brother is in. Her brother is upstairs practicing the workman's chant, because it's someone in her family leading the marching song.
"Enyara-ya sa-yoyara enyara-yarekonose arehasa enyara-ya"
.....

November 1969: "Caterpillar" (FIN)

Sabu and Ichi's Detective Stories - Vol 4 END

佐武と市捕物控[4]　水溜り

小学館文庫

石森章太郎
昭和13年1月25日、宮城県登米郡に生まれる。昭和30年「二級天使」でデビュー。昭和41年度講談社児童まんが賞、同43年度小学館漫画賞受賞。
代表作「サイボーグ009」「佐武と市捕物控」「ジュン」他。

（検印廃止）

昭和52年2月20日　初版第1刷発行

著　者　石森章太郎
©Shotaro Ishimori　1977
発行者　相賀　徹夫
発行所　株式会社　小学館
東京都千代田区一ツ橋2－3－1
〔郵便番号〕101〔振替〕東京8－200
〔電話〕編集　東京（03）230－5481
製作　東京（03）230－5333
販売　東京（03）230－5739
印刷所　図書印刷株式会社

★落丁、乱丁がありましたら、おとりかえいたします。　Printed in Japan
★定価は、カバーに表示してあります。

佐武と市捕物控

SABU & ICHI

Chapter 22
presented by
Hokuto no gun
and
Happy scans

Translated by SystematicChaos
Cleaned by Wright
Typesetting by Kazuhiko